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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the hardest and 5 the easiest, how would you rate the ease of entry to and exit from the CNMI since federal authorities took over the local immigration system?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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A dock that floated ashore in an Oregon beach is from northern Japan.

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Two Siberian tiger cubs find an unusual wet nurse, a dog.

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Ray Bradbury, the author of 'Fahrenheit 451,' dies at 91.

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Fund under state of emergency

» Pension agency functions, powers transferred to Finance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared yesterday a state of emergency for the financially troubled NMI Retirement Fund, suspending the power of the pension agency's board of trustees and administrator, and transferring this executive power to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

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YOUNG FARMERS ➤

Marianas High School students who completed the after-school agriculture class called MHS Lancheros and taught by agriculturist Isidoro T. Cabrera hold their certificates of completion during the group's open house event at the school grounds yesterday. Besides their instructor, the young farmers pose for a group photo with MHS school principal Cherlyn Cabrera and Northern Marianas Trades Institute founder and president Tony Pellegrino.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Calvary Christian Academy closes down

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After many years of serving the CNMI, Calvary Christian Academy will be shuttering its doors effective this month, a decision that has saddened many parents, students, and education officials.

CCA founder and principal Scott Norman confirmed the school's shutdown in a short telephone interview yesterday with *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero, Norman's decision to close down the institution was first relayed to the Public School System and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

Saddened by the action, Guerrero blamed the bad economy as the main reason for the closure. He told *Saipan Tribune* that the board understands the rationale behind the decision.

"We hate to see something like that [closure] to happen because we con-

See CALVARY on Page 4

Civil Service office in desperate need of repairs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Employees withdraw complaints filed with Civil Service

When you open the door to the office of the Civil Service Commission on Capital Hill on a rainy day, chances are you will see a used pan in the hallway, a red plastic basin on the counter, and at least six more plastic trash bins in other areas, catching rainwater dripping from the leaking roof. The carpet is smelly and tired looking from being soaked in rainwater.

That's only the physical aspect. The Civil Service Commission has been, since 2008, without at least five of seven required members to make decisions on complaints filed by civil service employees related to terminations, suspensions and reprimands, among other cases.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration said it has been trying—with little success—to fill the vacancies at the com-

At least eight plastic trash bins, water basins, and an old pan and water line are used to catch rainwater from the leaking roof of the Civil Service Commission office on Capital Hill, where many government offices built during the Trust Territory days are now in great need of repair.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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BESIDES REMOVAL OF 'FOURTH GROUP'

HR 1466 may have other changes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Besides the likely removal of foreign parents of minor U.S. citizen children from Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 1466, another amendment could lower the family income threshold for the CNMI so that many "green card" applicants will be granted a fee waiver.

Just the same, workers' groups in the

See HR 1466 on Page 4

Local

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Sahagun, Cabrera top MHS graduates

AGELINE SAHAGUN
Valedictorian

RACHEL RENEE CABRERA
Salutatorian

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Ageline Sahagun and Rachel Renee Cabrera emerged as this year's most outstanding students of Marianas High School and were bestowed the highest academic recognitions during commencement exercises this week on campus.

Sahagun was presented with the prestigious Board of Education Award as class valedictorian, while Cabrera was awarded the Commissioner's Award as class salutatorian.

Sahagun, the daughter of Ruben and Yolanda Sahagun, will pursue college at the Guam Community College where she will take up biological engineering. After a year, she plans to transfer to the University of Hawaii to continue her studies.

In her valedictory address, the 18-year-old expressed gratitude to her family, friends, and mentors for their guidance, care, and support. She wished her fellow graduates "good luck."

"Whatever comes next, let's be true to ourselves. Don't focus so much on the perfect opportunity that you miss the right ones. The screw-ups and mistakes don't stop here. Never let the past define who you are now. Never let the present define who you are in the future, because trust me, it all can change," Sahagun told her peers.

Cabrera echoed these sentiments as she urged her peers to keep striving for their future. She also recognized her family, teachers, and peers for their guidance and inspiration.

She was personally presented her award by Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

MHS conferred diplomas to 232 graduates this school year. On the Top Ten List were Sahagun, Cabrera, Riya Nathrani, Phoebe Zhou, Kimberly Vitug, Michelle Ngirbabul, Mark Christopher Echaure, Liamwar Rangamar, Genevieve Alexa Gottwald, and Deveney Dela Cruz.

The Governor's Award, presented by Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, was bestowed on Michelle Ngirbabul, who also emerged as this year's Gates Millennium Scholar. She was also presented Monday with a commendation from Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera presented the Principal's Award to Marylyn Waing.

Prior to the graduation ceremonies, awards and recognitions were also handed out to other deserving graduates, among them Michael Roberto Moran, who received both the President's Education Award for academic achievement and the Distinguished Athlete Award given by the U.S. Marine Corps.

Graced by members of the education board led by chair Marylou Ada, the ceremony was keynoted by Joey and Elizabeth Elger.

CHC board approves scrapping employees' housing allowance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board has approved scrapping the housing allowance it provides its employees who were hired from outside the CNMI.

However, because the board serves only as an advisory body to the chief executive officer, Juan N. Babauta will still have the final say on the matter.

CHC board chair Joaquin Torres disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the board voted to discontinue the housing benefit by Oct. 30 this year, primarily due to the tight fiscal situation of the organization, which is still in a state of emergency.

The hospital provides a $600 monthly housing allowance to single employees and $800 to those with families as part of the benefit package provided to off-island hires. To date, the corporation is behind by five months in paying this benefit to employees.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that the hospital spends about $1.2 million a year to provide the housing allowance to over 200 personnel, mostly nurses hired from the Philippines. This translates to about $134,000 a month.

Torres said that CHC acknowledges it still owes its employees several months' worth of housing allowance and that this obligation will be paid once money becomes available.

Since most employment contracts at CHC are up for renewal by November, Torres said that Babauta would decide if he wants the housing allowance or a portion of it be carried over to the salary package of the employee.

"Everything [about the housing allowance] will now depend on the CEO per negotiation with individual employee. But the main purpose of the board's decision is to entirely eliminate the 'housing allowance' on their paychecks," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The board's decision, Torres added, conforms with the legal advice provided by the Office of the Attorney General.

Nurses still hopeful

Nursing director Leticia Reyes yesterday expressed optimism that Babauta will consider the benefit that would be lost among affected employees. She revealed that the nurses' housing allowance represents 25 percent of their monthly take-home pay.

Reyes said she has not been made aware of the board's decision but, in case it is final and executory, the nursing department has to make the necessary preparations for its impact.

As of yesterday, Reyes' department had 155 nurses—down from 167 in January. By the end of this month, seven nurses are scheduled to leave. By July, the hospital expects to have only 146 nurses, going down to 133 by end of October.

Reyes described the 133 expected nurses' count in coming months as "very critical," citing its impact on the delivery of nursing care.

Reyes said their recruitment efforts continue and have identified 24 potential new hires—mostly nonresidents recruited on-island—who are awaiting approval from federal immigration.

The housing allowance was last suspended in 2009. That resulted in a large number of off-island hires accepting jobs in other states. The numerous resignations prompted the restoration of the allowance.

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CIVIL SERVICE

From Page 1

mission to ensure it has at least five sitting members at any given time.

Some 30 complaints filed with the commission have not been moving since 2008 when it last had five members.

Andrew Orsini, acting commission director, said among these pending cases is one that's almost three years old.

"The person who filed that complaint wants to have a fair chance and wants to be heard by the commission, and that person has been patiently waiting for the commission to hear the case," Orsini told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the CSC office.

Orsini is one of only two employees at the commission since last year. The other is the board secretary.

He said others withdrew their complaints because of any or a combination of the following: they do not want to create trouble at the expense of their right to be heard when an adverse action was taken against them; some decided to just leave their job and look for another one either in the CNMI, Guam, or the mainland; some realized it could take much longer to have at least five commissioners to make a decision on their case.

Moreover, most of those who file complaints are in the lower salary range, making it difficult for them to go to court instead. The 16-hour work cut biweekly remains in place as part of the government's austerity measures.

"We have quite a number of withdrawals of complaints. It is sad because these people are not exercising their full rights under the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, the right to be heard. They file it and they withdraw it. But there are still some 30 cases waiting to be heard by the commission," Orsini added.

He said early this year alone, five new complaints were filed with CSC.

Of the five, three were withdrawn, one decided to go to court, and only one remains pending awaiting a commission hearing.

Right now, the CSC board has four members including chair Felix Fitial, Charles Calvo, Eric Plinske and Tina Kukkun, said Orsini, adding that Fitial's term will expire this year.

Orsini said the Constitution requires seven members and at least five members deciding as one on personnel cases. He acknowledged the difficulty of appointing individuals to serve on the commission because of qualifications, limited indemnification protection, and other reasons.

"I know that the administration has been doing its best but people have been declining the nomination for a number of reasons," he said.

The governor nominated Eusebio Manglona to the commission representing Rota.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said, "At least three others have declined their appointments to the CSC for either personal or health reasons."

He said the governor will work harder to get people to serve on CSC, and will look beyond political affiliation in appointing people "as always."

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said yesterday that Eusebio Manglona has yet to submit required documents to the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, which has been investigating and holding public hearings on the governor's appointments.

The EAGI Committee, currently chaired by Cruz, recommends to the full Senate whether to accept or reject the governor's appointments.

As for the CSC office on Capital Hill, Orsini said he understands that the government is financially struggling right now so he is not pressing for the repair of the office roof, although they have requested funds for it.

"We needed repair money but we can't do anything, there's just no money available," he added.

CALVARY

From Page 1

sider the private schools as partners of PSS. But we understand that there are some realities that they have to live with," said Guerrero, adding that CCA failed to meet the needed enrollment numbers to stay afloat.

A possible re-opening of the institution, he said, was never mentioned when Norman made the courtesy call to the board.

Ellen Delos Santos, a parent of a CCA student, said the decision to close down brought disappointment and sadness to the family.

Delos Santos' two children both studied at CCA for many years. Her youngest—Savannah—just completed her ninth grade and was excited for her 10th grade opening. The student has been at CCA since K-4.

"We received a letter from the school informing us about this decision. We felt bad that it has to close down, but we understand their decision and we respect that," she said, admitting that it would be a big adjustment for her daughter to look for another school.

According to the mother, she chose CCA for the quality of service it provides to each and every student.

Victoria Nishida, a mother of two kids who studied at CCA for many years, was also unhappy about the news. She told *Saipan Tribune* that she cried when she heard the news.

Victoria's daughter—Midori—just graduated last week as valedictorian in the high school level of CCA.

She said that when she first scouted for a school for her children, she researched almost each and every private school on island and decided to enroll her kids at CCA. For her, CCA is among the best educational institutions in the Commonwealth.

News about the CCA's closure has been a hot topic in many Facebook interactions. Many alumni of the institution have expressed their sentiments and offered nothing but praise for their alma mater and mentors.

Ladera International School also closed down a couple of years back for the same reason—a dearth in the number of enrollees.

FUND

From Page 1

Fitial said his executive order shall become effective immediately upon the federal bankruptcy court filing its judgment dismissing the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

The Fund emergency declaration will remain in effect for 30 days, and could be lifted or extended for another 30 days.

Fitial's executive order re-organizes and transfers the Fund's statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities to Finance.

The governor made it clear that he intends to enable the Fund to continue to provide necessary services to retirees.

"This declaration and executive reorganization is necessary to protect the health and safety of our senior citizens, businesses, and all other CNMI residents and visitors as well as further the interests of efficient administration and effectiveness of government," Fitial said in his five-page Executive Order 2012-06.

The NMI Retirement Fund is the first public pension agency on U.S. soil to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The case was later dismissed by the federal court.

It is also the third agency in the CNMI now under the governor or his designee's control in recent period.

Fitial also declared a state of emergency for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Reactions to Fitial's sequestration of the Fund were swift. Lawmakers called on the administration to work with the Legislature and all parties involved in putting more money into the Fund so that pensions can still be disbursed beyond two years.

"The executive order and transfer takes care of operational matters. The bigger problem remains—after two years, there may not be pension benefits for present retirees regardless of what will happen with the Social Security negotiations and with or without the executive order," Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) told *Saipan Tribune.*

'Fiscal irresponsibility'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), for his part, said the "state of disaster emergency" declaration fails to pass constitutional muster.

He said this is because the law spells out very clear examples of "disasters"—the occurrence or imminent threat of a widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including, but not limited to, typhoons, tornadoes, storms, floods, high waters, wind-driven waters, tidal waves, earthquakes, fires, oil spills, or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, volcanic activity, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, or explosion.

"The administration's fiscal irresponsibility does not rise to the level of physical calamity contemplated by our laws," Sablan said.

The CNMI government owes the Retirement Fund some $317 million in unpaid employer contributions and interest as of March.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), who earlier said it should be the central government that should be placed under a state of emergency and not the Fund, CUC, or CHC, said yesterday that this action by the governor was "inevitable."

"The lieutenant governor had made it clear that action must be taken immediately so that payments for legal attorneys representing the Fund will cease. Restructuring of the Fund operations is in order and I believe that the Department of Finance is capable [of] handling the day-to-day operations," Dela Cruz said.

He said employees of the Retirement Fund will need to be transferred to Finance.

Existing money managers and actuary will still be retained but this time under the Department of Finance and Executive Branch, added Dela Cruz, chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos has been leading the administration's efforts in addressing the Fund crisis.

Imminent threat

Fitial said a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI exists because of the imminent threat of disruption to the economic and societal health of the CNMI "that would be caused by the failure of the Retirement Fund."

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz said the Executive Branch and Legislature must immediately begin the process of coming up with answers "both as it pertains to the plight of the retirees as well as the active government employees who are in the defined benefit plan."

"Again, I must emphasize that this dialogue must be made immediately and that actions are made in the best interest of both retirees and active employees," he added.

HR 1466

From Page 1

CNMI are disappointed at the likely removal of the fourth group of people from HR 1466. United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed is contemplating a hunger strike and at least one lawmaker is saying the federal government should give back to the CNMI control over its own immigration.

Sablan met last night with leaders and members of workers' groups in the CNMI to brief them about the status of HR 1466, which has been stalled but is still in union calendar.

HR 1466 grants "CNMI-only resident status" to four groups of people.

The three other covered groups are CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974, and Jan. 9, 1978, and the spouses, parents or children of U.S. citizens under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

"Nobody should be left behind. All legal long-term aliens in the CNMI should be given improved immigration status. We should not be treated like the illegal immigrants in the U.S.," Syed told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan said it's never his intention to change HR 1466. "But in Congress, as in any legislature, legislating something requires negotiation and maybe compromise but at this time, there has been no decision made on HR 1466 except progress," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday night.

The removal of the fourth group and the lowering of the income threshold are among possible "compromises" with mostly Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sablan, in another interview yesterday, said he has been working toward lowering the income threshold for the CNMI from $10,838 to $6,239.

Syed said this is a "good thing," so that a lot of people in the CNMI applying for "green card" will be able to receive a fee waiver. Given the economic realities in the CNMI, he said it would be hard to come up with over $1,300 for a green card application, excluding other expenses.

"But we still need more clarification on this, whether this could really be done through legislation or could be done in-house by DHS [Department of Homeland Security]," Syed said.

He said he is thinking of going on a hunger strike to bring to the CNMI and the federal government's attention the still-in-limbo status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

"UWM is not only strongly opposed to the removal of the fourth group of people from HR 1466; we are also strongly opposed to the lack of improved federal immigration status for other long-term, legal aliens in the CNMI," Syed said.

Boni Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, separately said they are also disappointed and dismayed that a compromise on HR 1466 will be to the detriment of the fourth group of people.

He said the three other groups do not necessarily need the protection offered by HR 1466, unlike the fourth group.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, meanwhile, welcomes the possibility that the fourth group of people covered in HR 1466 may be removed from the bill, to have a better chance of helping the three other groups that the CNMI government itself granted statuses to but were not recognized by the federal government when it took over local immigration.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked whether the governor would ask his GOP colleagues in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate not to further block the bill once the fourth group is removed from the bill, said, "With the exception of CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974, and Jan. 9, 1978, Governor Fitial still maintains that the others included in HR 1466 should not be granted outright improved status."

"The governor maintains that like all other non-citizens throughout the United States, there already exists a procedure to attain U.S. citizenship and/or residency," Demapan said.

The press secretary added that the governor "welcomes anyone to remain in the CNMI, provided that they are here legally, in accordance to existing laws."

Among outstanding issues in HR 1466 is the fourth group of people that HR 1466 proposes to help—the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008, regardless of the age of those U.S. citizens, and continuing to be on the islands with legal status. The issue is that allowing this class of people to get some form of status could set a precedent on U.S. soil.

But Syed said these people entered the CNMI legally and continue to remain in legal status, with Social Security numbers and have helped build the CNMI economy for years and decades. Syed said these people should not be treated the same as the millions of illegal aliens on the U.S. mainland.

No immigration bill has moved in the 112th Congress except Sablan's HR 1466.

NMC burglarized; three laptops, one projector stolen

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education office in As Terlaje was burglarized over the weekend and three laptops and one projector worth over $4,500 were reported stolen.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the NMI Crime Stoppers Program is seeking the public's help for information about the burglary and theft incident.

NMC president Sharon Hart said they are cooperating with the Department of Public Safety as it conducts a thorough investigation of the matter.

Tarkong said that NMC employees discovered the burglary on Monday at 8am after noticing the broken door to the Adult Basic Education office.

Tarkong said the stolen items—three Sony Viao laptops and one projector—were last seen on Friday, June 2, at the end of the workday.

The crime, however, occurred sometime over the weekend, said Tarkong, who is also the coordinator for the NMI Crime Stoppers Program.

Hart said that an inventory of equipment and supplies is being conducted to fully determine if other items may have been taken.

Hart reminded all employees to ensure that they are taking extra precautionary measures to prevent theft and vandalism on the campus.

"It is too premature to provide further comment while the investigation is underway," the NMC president said. "However, we strongly encourage anyone who has any information that may help with the investigation to contact the police immediately."

Derik Reyes continues eluding cops

Derik Reyes, the suspect in the burglary at the U.S. Army Reserve Center's troop store in Puerto Rico, Saipan, continues to elude authorities.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that they have yet to locate Reyes as of press time.

Tarkong said the Department of Public Safety's elite Tactical Response Enforcement Team has yet to be activated to go after Reyes.

Saipan Tribune learned that in the last four days, police officers checked the houses of Reyes, his girlfriend, former wife, former girlfriends, and family members, but failed to track him down.

Reyes

Police believe that the suspect is still hiding on Saipan.

On Monday Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho signed a warrant for the arrest of the 31-year-old Reyes for burglary, theft, and criminal mischief. Camacho imposed an $11,250 cash bail.

Acting DPS commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro earlier stated that police have made several attempts to locate Reyes at his residence and have contacted family and friends, hoping he would surrender.

Tarkong said that DPS calls on all law enforcement in the CNMI and the community to work together to capture the suspect.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center's troop store was burglarized on May 30 and the suspect was caught on surveillance camera committing the crime. Items stolen were a 32-inch Panasonic LCD flat screen TV, HP 201 monitors, and Bose portable music systems, all estimated to cost over $1,500.

Police investigation showed that the suspect used a bolt cutter to cut the padlock on a shipping container being used as a storage room of the troop store. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SHEFA nixes relocation to mayor's office

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board of directors has thumbed down Saipan Mayor Donald Flores' invitation to relocate the scholarship program's business office to the municipality's building.

SHEFA board member Jose Mafnas disclosed Tuesday that the mayor, in his goal to share the municipality's logistics and personnel with the scholarship program, encouraged the board to relocate its office to the Saipan Mayor's Office's new location at the Ladera Center along Beach Road in Oleai.

Mafnas said that SHEFA was concerned about the move's financial impact as SHEFA will have to pay rent of $1 per square foot, equivalent to $1,000 a month.

SHEFA, a program under the Saipan Mayor's Office, occupies a space at the MIHA Housing in Garapan for free. It was reported that the program spends only $300 a month for insurance coverage plus utilities. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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Zoning resubmits proposed law amendments

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning board submitted anew its original proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Maps of 2008, about two months after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed House Local Bill 17-26.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro, in a letter to House Speaker Eli D. Cabrera, said that their submission contents is the same proposed law that they previously presented to the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation.

Ogumoro noted in her May 14 letter that all technical errors identified both by the delegation and the Zoning Office have been incorporated within the latest proposal.

"Again, the office and board are strongly requesting that this proposed zoning law, as presented in final form, be passed as it is," said Ogumoro, adding that the passing of the law is "very important" to effectuate the critical and long-awaited improvements to zoning on Saipan.

Blanco

Efforts to get Zoning's proposed amendments to the 4-year-old law approved was stalled following Rep. Stanley Torres' submission of his own version of zoning amendments through HLB 17-26, which would have made massive changes to the zoning law.

Citing significant legal concerns, particularly "spot zoning," Fitial vetoed the bill on March 22.

When asked for comment, Zoning board chair Diego C. Blanco said in a phone interview that he is hopeful that their version of the proposed amendments would pass the delegation this time.

These amendments, he said, are based on sound zoning policies and principles and include public comments they received as well as careful planning on the part of Zoning Office that spanned for two years.

Blanco said he respects Torres and any other representatives who may have any amendments to the zoning law but he called on these lawmakers to work with Zoning in improving the law.

"We prefer that they work with us so we can discuss their concerns further. After all, we're all reasonable men here. I believe that Mr. Torres is also a reasonable man," Blanco told *Saipan Tribune*.

Medical referral patients down by 36 percent this fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of patients being referred off-island for treatment has significantly dipped and may result in a 36-percent reduction by the end of the fiscal year, according to CNMI Medical Referral Program director Ron Sablan.

He attributed the large decline to recent cutbacks and internal control measures.

In fiscal year 2010, the program referred over 1,100 patients to various medical facilities in the Philippines, the United States, Hawaii, and Guam, Sablan said.

By the end of fiscal year 2012, he estimates the volume of referred patients to be around 700.

He pointed out, however, that 700 is still a large number and continues to cost the cash-strapped government millions of dollars.

Both the Medical Referral Office and the Medicaid program are under the Executive Branch.

Sablan disclosed that due to the government's scarce resources, the program's subsistence allowance for patients was suspended since April this year and the airfare subsidy for patient and their escorts was reduced.

Sablan

He pointed out that another major factor in the decline of medically referred patients this year is the improved collaboration between and among referring and attending physicians as well as the medical referral program.

"There's a little control factor because we really focus on who really needs to go. We work with the doctors, both referring and attending physicians," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

As long as both medical experts and equipment remain inadequate on island, Sablan believes the CNMI will continue to refer patients for treatment off island.

"As long as the medical facilities are not in full capacity, there's still need for medical referral. Our task is to send patients out. But I ask the community to please bear with us. We ask for their patience and understanding because we're trying our best," said Sablan.

The program was approved a $2.6-million budget for fiscal year 2012. To date, Sablan estimates the program's overall obligation to medical facilities and travel agents at $1.7 million.

Medicaid patients

Sablan disclosed that due to issues of delayed payments from Medicaid, the medical referral program is absorbing the full expenses of referred Medicaid patients who are refused treatment by medical facilities.

"Most of our patients are Medicaid patients. We have some hard times sending them because no one wants to accept Medicaid patients and we get the blame [from family members]. …When that happens, we send them to the Philippines and our program covers 100 percent [of the cost]. This is an issue beyond our control," he said.

The medical referral program has been the government's largest expenditure over the years. In 2010, the government spent more than $8 million on its medical referral program.

Case against alleged Miah conspirator dismissed

The case against one of the suspects in a conspiracy to cash fraudulent CNMI tax refund checks in grocery stores was dismissed yesterday after issues arose about the prosecution's ability to prove its case against the suspect.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed without prejudice the case against Cecilia Blas, reportedly the girlfriend of alleged mastermind Mohammad Jahangir Miah. Dismissal without prejudice means the U.S. government can refile the case in the future.

The judge ordered the release of Blas' passport and unsecured bond.

Manglona issued the dismissal after assistant U.S. attorney Stephen F. Leon Guerrero, counsel for the U.S. government, and attorney Mark Hanson, counsel for Blas, agreed to the dismissal.

Leon Guerrero said that issues have arisen that call into question whether the U.S. government can prove its case against Blas beyond reasonable doubt.

The original indictment had charged Miah, Eric C. Mirano, and Blas with conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

According to the indictment, Miah would buy a "stale" tax refund check from a co-conspirator who had stolen the check from the Department of Finance. Miah and other persons would then remove the name of the true payee and put in its place a name of their own choosing, such as that of Mirano.

Blas and a fraudulent payee, such as Mirano, would then cash the check at a grocery store. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Commonwealth Cancer Association

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The Commonwealth Cancer Association, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and other social and human service providers will honor our citizens who are living with and beyond cancer. June 1 to June 8 will be observed as the 2012 Commonwealth/National Cancer Survivors Week-Day and will host events throughout the week. We urge all cancer survivors to join in this joyous celebration of life.
The theme for this week's celebration is:

"Rainbow of Hope"

SCHEDULE OF EVENT

Friday, June 8
5:30 p.m.
Cancer Survivors Support Group Gala,
Raraina Room, Aqua Resort Club, Saipan

This week provides an opportunity for all of our people living with a history of cancer to connect with each other, celebrate milestones, and recognize the healthcare providers, family, and friends who have supported them along the way.

We encourage all cancer survivors to wear 2012 Survivors shirts to all events.
For more information, please contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or send email to cca@ccamarianas.org

KNOWLEDGE HOPE INSPIRATION

This ad was brought to you by the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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From the Management and Staff

NMC English, placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be extending the time to take the English placement test on Friday, June 8, 2012, to 4pm and will be conducting additional placement test on the following dates:

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

- June 8, Friday: 9am – 4pm, Building M
- June 11, Monday: 9am – 4pm, Building M

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

- June 11, Monday: 10am – 12pm, Room A-9
- June 12, Tuesday: 10am – 12pm, Room A-9

Registration for the NMC's regular summer session will begin on Monday, June 11, 2012, and will continue until Wednesday, June 13, 2012. Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration provided that placement tests have been taken.

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department (Building M) to schedule an appointment. There is also a signup sheet for the English placement test in Building M.

"Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at 234-5498 Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. Test takers are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for those who have not taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at 234-5498 Ext. 1202 or 1212.

For more information about the placement tests and registration for the summer 2012 semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 8, 2000

OPA warns DFW of possible violation of federal grants

The Office of the Public Auditor has warned that the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife may have placed the grant it receives from the United States government in jeopardy due to possible violations of an agreement it signed with the Division of Federal Aid. OPA mentioned the arrangement DFW had with its two employees who were allowed to enroll and attend classes at the Northern Marianas College during office hours sans the charging of the appropriate type of leave. The employees get a complete 8-hour pay even when they are out from work to attend classes at the College instead of their absences being charged to leave.

NMIRF taps M&I for securities lending

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Board has chosen M&I (Marshall and Isley) Investment Management Company to do securities lending investment, according to its administrator, Juan S. Torres. He said M&I's appointment was based on the recommendation of the Fund's Investment Committee, which conducted a thorough analysis of the offers made by the firms that were short listed by Merril Lynch, the Fund's consultant. "M&I offers a better package to fit our desire for portfolio diversification and at the same time realizing minimal risk," Mr. Torres said.

Jun. 8, 2001

Fund underscore need for review firm

Fund officials underscored the need to set up a review utilization board to safeguard the Group Health and Life Insurance Program from erroneous medical and hospital billings. Fund Board Chair Vicente M. Camacho was critical of politicians for using the GHLIP to gain the support of electorates without taking into consideration the positive result a review firm can do for the program. "One can only surmise that there is political and business interest out there that do not want to see this program take off. It is election time and GHLIP can be sacrificed to maintain political self preservation," said Camacho.

CUC seeks AG's opinion on Enron deal

Would the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. rebid the planned 60 megawatt power plant project or award it to the next highest bidder? All these questions would have to wait until CUC receives a legal opinion from the Attorney General's Office on what exactly is the safest approach to take. Enron was awarded the controversial project but dropped it altogether recently. CUC executive director Timothy P. Villagomez confirmed that the utility agency has put everything on hold regarding the 60-MW power project.

Jun. 8, 2005

NMIRF surprised at CDA's hiring of its staff

The NMI Retirement Fund was surprised over the Commonwealth Development Authority's reported decision to hire its own comptroller, Noel Soria. "I'm surprised. I don't know about it. Nor is the board aware of it," said Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes yesterday. The CDA, which held a board meeting on Monday, said it would hire Soria at a starting salary of $55,000 a year. CDA, which has been without a comptroller for two years now, said Soria would be offered a three-year contract, with an initial six-month probation. Soria stands to have his salary raised to $60,000 a year when he completes his first year of employment and obtains a "certified management accountant" status. Soria confirmed that he did turn in an application to CDA but only learned of the reported CDA decision after reading it in the Saipan Tribune.

Fitial warns BoG vs debt

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has formally cautioned the Bank of Guam about potential constitutional liabilities if it lends money to the CNMI government for operational purposes without a legislative approval. In a June 2 letter to BoG, which was released to the media yesterday, Fitial warned the bank against allowing the government to withdraw from a $10 million letter of credit for "CUC's operating expenses." "Although you did not require an opinion from the Legislative Branch of the Commonwealth government, the branch which serves as a check and balance in protecting public funds, I highly caution the bank in approving any withdrawal of funds pursuant to the standby letter of credit," said Fitial in the letter, which was addressed to BoG executive vice president and chief operating officer William D. Leon Guerrero.

UNTIL FINANCE ISSUES CERTIFIED LIST OF FILERS

OPA holds off daily $10 fine for late filers of financial statements

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Auditor Michael Pai said the Office of the Public Auditor is holding off assessing a $10 penalty fee for every single day that certain government officials fail to file their 2011 statement of financial interest, until the Department of Finance issues to OPA a certified list of individuals required to file financial statements.

With only 276 individuals able to beat the May 31 final deadline, there may be dozens more who have yet to file their 2011 financial statements. In previous years, the number of required filers was over 300.

The deadline for filing the calendar year 2011 statement of financial interest was on May 31. After that, OPA was supposed to assess a $10 penalty fine for every single day of non-filing.

"…OPA will not be assessing the $10 penalty fee for late filing until we receive the certified list from the Secretary of Finance," Pai told *Saipan Tribune.*

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson's office has yet to respond to media questions about the absence of a certified list of required filers for 2011.

Pai said as of May 31, a total of 276 individuals filed their 2011 statement of financial interest.

"OPA is still unable to determine the total number of individuals required to file a statement for calendar year 2011 as we have not received the certified list from the Secretary of Finance as mandated by the Government Ethics Code Act," the public auditor said.

In lieu of a certified list from Finance, OPA sent a notice via e-mail on March 6 and April 16, 2012, advising all appointed/elected Commonwealth officials, boards, councils/task force members or directors, commissioners, executive directors, managing directors, deputy directors, and administrators to file their statement of financial interest on or before the May 1 deadline.

Some lawmakers interviewed yesterday said while they missed the initial deadline of May 1, they were able to file their financial statement soon after that date.

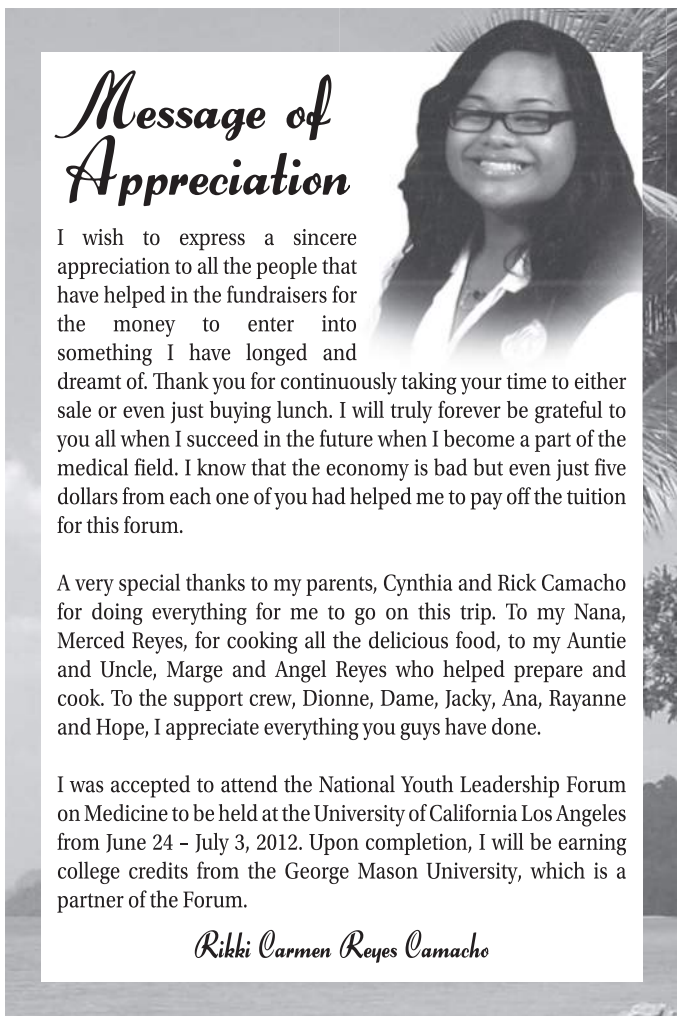
Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that right around the May 1 initial deadline, there was a death in the family—his grandmother—so he missed the date, but was able to file his financial statement around May 10.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said yesterday he was able to file his financial statement during the first week of May.

Pai said that OPA has not received any requests for extension for this filing year.

"OPA would like to inform all individuals who know that they are required to file a statement to please do so, as soon as possible. Free notary service is available at OPA for this purpose," Pai added.

Unlike many other jurisdictions and countries, CNMI law does not make public financial statements. The assets and liabilities of elected officials are not readily available for public inspection. OPA can only release the documents with the consent of the filer.


Message of Appreciation
I wish to express a sincere appreciation to all the people that have helped in the fundraisers for the money to enter into something I have longed and dreamt of. Thank you for continuously taking your time to either sale or even just buying lunch. I will truly forever be grateful to you all when I succeed in the future when I become a part of the medical field. I know that the economy is bad but even just five dollars from each one of you had helped me to pay off the tuition for this forum.
A very special thanks to my parents, Cynthia and Rick Camacho for doing everything for me to go on this trip. To my Nana, Merced Reyes, for cooking all the delicious food, to my Auntie and Uncle, Marge and Angel Reyes who helped prepare and cook. To the support crew, Dionne, Dame, Jacky, Ana, Rayanne and Hope, I appreciate everything you guys have done.
I was accepted to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine to be held at the University of California Los Angeles from June 24 – July 3, 2012. Upon completion, I will be earning college credits from the George Mason University, which is a partner of the Forum.
Rikki Carmen Reyes Camacho

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Egypt's second Spring

The Arab Spring of 2011 was a moment of great change and hope in Egypt, the most populous nation in the Arab world. The autocrat who had ruled for three decades, Hosni Mubarak, had to resign in the face of massive protests by a people who were tired of being silenced and brutalized. A broad-based uprising, the Egyptian revolution seemed to open the way toward a more humane and democratic future.

It was probably too much to hope that the journey would be an easy one, and it hasn't been. The military took over running the government after Mubarak's departure in February 2011, but before long it was the target of discontent for moving too slowly to implement reform.

In November, crowds returned to Cairo's Tahrir Square clamoring for the army to relinquish control and demanding that a presidential election be held sooner rather than later. The generals grudgingly agreed to an accelerated plan to hand over power.

In the ensuing parliamentary elections, the biggest share of seats went to the Muslim Brotherhood, which was outlawed under Mubarak and is distrusted by many secular Egyptians, as well as Christians. That distrust deepened when the group reneged on its promise not to run a candidate in the presidential election.

The sentiment helped propel a former Mubarak aide, Ahmed Shafiq, into a June 16-17 runoff against Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi. Think of Shafiq as the candidate the military would like to see victorious.

It's a bitter, high-stakes contest, with Morsi accusing Shafiq of planning a new reign of repression and Shafiq contending that Morsi would take Egypt "back to the dark ages." Roughly half of voters voted for neither in the first round. But unable to unite behind a more liberal alternative, they will be stuck with one or the other of the evils they rejected.

Clouding the outlook still further was a court verdict Saturday sentencing Mubarak to life in prison. Good news for Egyptian democracy? Not entirely.

Demonstrators turned out again, furious that Mubarak was acquitted on corruption charges and other officials were cleared of ordering the killings. The former president was unceremoniously transferred to prison, but the fear is that he may ultimately be exonerated on appeal.

Extricating a country from a corrupt, authoritarian past is usually a messy affair, and it often proceeds two steps forward, one step back. Egypt has plenty of entrenched interests with a stake in blocking the nation's embrace of modern values like pluralism and tolerance.

The Mubarak trial is, however, evidence that the worst of the old Egypt is gone—and the protests against the verdict indicate that Egyptians are not about to let it be restored. Both the military and the Muslim Brotherhood must be aware that if they intend to rule by force, they will be fighting a losing battle against their own citizenry.

They are not running in an election to gain permanent control of Egypt. They are competing for the opportunity to show what they can do for the people—who retain the right to change their minds.

The events of the last year and a half don't prove the country is going to realize the highest hopes of the Arab Spring. But they show a stubborn attachment to the idea that the government has to rely on the consent of the governed.

For Egypt, that's huge progress.

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Investment deceleration

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The exodus of major industries from the NMI drained the local economy of billions of dollars. It now faces a critically serious financial meltdown or paralysis. The mess will continue to deepen and affect village folks with apocalyptic hardship.

Prevailing conditions were triggered by federal laws and policies that denied the CNMI its comparative advantages and the obvious leadership obsolescence that failed to lift a finger.

As dire fiscal disarray deepens, we can't sit idly by hoping for miracles, only to deal with persistent bouts of more uncertainty because we've opted to second-guess our future. Must begin with inside information on where laws and regulations have stifled investments and dispose of them forthwith.

Major newspapers are replete with materials of how too much taxes and stifling regulations have killed investments in places like California. It's now in the hole by as much as $16 billion. The larger industries have dismantled and have started their relocation to states like Texas where taxes are low and hardly strapped with regressive regulations.

Maryland recently raised taxes to pay for its profligacy. It is hoped that tax increases would pay off costly entitlement programs left vacuous after federal funds infusion stopped. It also hopes to see growth of private industries.

Nice try! But such ill-advised paradigm would only see the unintended consequence of growth in the number of businesses relocating elsewhere. Maryland and California can no longer willfully push its spend-and-spend attitude and not when factual figures show otherwise. The NMI isn't absolved of this mess either.

Thus, the dire need to return to basics, chiefly the organization of a socio-economic plan with room for refinement as we move along. Bluffing it with the adolescent attitude of convenient acquiescence isn't the way to recapture and rebuild the future of these isles. It's now or never!

■■■

Graduation 2012

Reconciliatory valedictory statements have been echoing in the blistering summer breeze by top graduates of the Class of 2012. I am sublimely curious who among our public officials had the gall to pander to graduates in grand ignorance. But let's see how an honest public servant would have discussed the future of graduates against the background of a disastrous economic mess.

"Unfolding conditions in disastrous bankruptcy doesn't need any scholarly discussion. How unfortunate the pomp and circumstance, the springboard of hopes and dreams, relegated and compromised by obsolescence in leadership. Educational opportunities are in a malaise given the contraction of funds for scholarships. Thus, your journey into the real word begins in crisis, starting tonight. This is the net result of an economic wreck of epic proportions that blur everybody's vision of the future including yours.

"It makes it obligatory that you discard somebody else's construction of the way things ought to be. You're more than capable of discerning the truth and what's right. 'Men and women of every faith, and good people with none at all, sincerely strive to do right and lead a purpose-driven life.' This you must emulate as an individual. Your individual success is the welcome vehicle to our collective success. Move on with heads high for I am confident you can make a difference in securing brighter tomorrows for our children. It's no longer the purview of obsolescent leadership.

"The NMI is caught in its own vicious cycle of 'hysteresis' when wealth and jobs creations were in abundant in these isles. These building blocks have receded with the tide. The term hysteresis is a Greek word that means, "to be late." Indeed, we've had a healthy investment in recent past. It has been derailed by internal and external influences. Did we lift a finger to slam the brakes of investment exodus? Or isn't it true that leadership is disoriented, dazed and clueless?

"As the concept further explains, 'Once a system tumbles off a ledge and goes catastrophically bad, it's very hard to return it to its earlier state; usually it's impossible.' We need not go further than the now imperiled Fund, an underfunded healthcare system and a prohibitive utility cost that has forced more business closures than at any other time in our developmental history.

"In passing, it's clearly troubling the apocalyptic daze in the fiscal disarray of the local government. It now has unquestioned dominance over every governmental functions. It is basically a slow march to a 'festival of tyranny' as it acquires and compromises the consent of the governed.

"Opportunities have contracted and declined heavily forcing over 2,000 local families to relocate elsewhere. Exogenous investments have taken an exodus, turning the NMI into a bad business or investment venue. As a consequence, we've seen revenue degeneration of over $60 million in less than a decade. That, in a nutshell, depicts dire conditions in the CNMI.

"My profound regret for the pessimistic portrayal of a very bleak future. Regret too that as I digress into my statement I must have

See INVESTMENT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Saipan rides the oil roller coaster

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.

Gasoline prices have drifted down a little bit in the Commonwealth, this on the heels of a decline in global oil prices. West Texas Intermediate crude, a popular benchmark flavor to quote, was trading at about $85 a barrel yesterday, down from $103 at the start of this calendar year. One year ago it was $100, so it's down about 15 percent.

Is this a sign that oil has turned the corner and that fuel prices will fall to comfortable levels? Is it time to party like it's nineteen-ninety-nine?

I'm not popping any corks. This is a roller coaster, and we're blind to what is ahead.

Some commodities have been weak lately, sinking atop the sagging fundamentals of the global economy. Oil has its own gig going. In oil's case, I suspect that the market fundamentals (immediate supply and demand) are out-muscled by international political tensions. There's nothing shady about that, it's just the nature of how uncertainty gets folded into things. Everyone has to account for the risks of mayhem in the Persian Gulf, and these uncertainties put upward pressure on futures prices, which, in turn, but upwards pressure on today's prices. So if prices have relented, I suspect that the mayhem worries have, too.

Although worry is an invisible thing, it makes very visible results in prices. Everything in economics is based on expectations; that's what moves markets.

If you've ever flirted with the notion of speculating in oil, a look at the past decade will either seduce you into the gig so you can make a lush killing in volatility, or convince you to take up stamp collecting instead.

In early 2002, oil was running under $20 a barrel. Then it started pretty much a straight climb up to over $145 a barrel in July 2008.

Then it popped like a ripe zit on prom night, collapsing to under $39 a barrel by late December of that year.

Yikes!

If you and I had anticipated that move, either on the upside or on the downside, we would be having this discussion in Macau right now, enjoying the view from the penthouse suite and sipping fancy drinks with little paper umbrellas in them.

Unfortunately, poor mooks that we are, instead of twirling paper umbrellas we're unwrapping rolls of Tums, the better to confront the dyspeptic stress of buying gas every week.

So what's the market consensus about oil prices? That's easy to see, since it's listed in futures prices. A barrel of oil to be delivered in June of next year is priced at $87.25 today (well, yesterday). So it's essentially a flat expectation. Will this change? Of course it will! It will change every trading second on commodities markets. In fact, the one thing we can know for virtually certain is that in June of next year oil will not cost $87.25 a barrel. It might be more. It might be less. Like I say, expectations are everything, and expectations constantly change as updated data, fresh news, and new rumors hit the wires.

And this doesn't have to be dramatic stuff. In fact, most of it is quite routine. Of course, that's life itself; it's usually routine until something big comes along, which is why we buy car insurance, and home insurance, and health insurance, and life insurance. We expect the unexpected, and the costs of providing for that are built into our budgets. So normal life isn't all that alien from the workings of oil markets; all markets allocate risk and they price accordingly, though some do it more explicitly than others.

Anyway, my take on anything, including oil, is to ascertain whether short-run changes in prices are more likely to be based on the supply side or the demand side. I think oil is clearly a supply-side gig. If you're looking for an example of a demand-side gig for contrast, I'll give you one: gold.

Overall, my guess, and it's only a guess, and not one I am willing to put my money behind, is that many commodities might be looking at a substantial fall in prices within the next year or two. However, beyond that, I think industrial Asia will assure a healthy demand and firm prices for commodities in the longer term.

But as for oil, well, once again, it is a special case, since its supply-side vulnerability is acute. It can get a price shock in mere minutes. We're talking geopolitics now, which nobody can predict in terms accurate enough to translate into reliable oil price forecasts.

Well, nobody who I know, at least. Maybe I need to keep better company; oddly enough, I've heard my friends make the same lament, but always behind my back for some reason.

INVESTMENT

From Page 10

robbed you of a very joyous and happy occasion. But you need not be disheartened for I still see hope that radiates in your triumphant smiles tonight. You are the foundation of hope to rebuild these isles! It's time to change the course of history for the better and it can only come from you! Together we can do it! Congratulations!"

A lucid statement depicting the legacy of failure and obsolescence in paradise (hellish hole) explained with courage and integrity!

■■■

Summertime blues

As the blistering heat of summer makes landfall in paradise, we know deep down in our guts that nothing has worked and even hope stands a fat chance of succeeding.

Unconsciously, we hum some soulful melody as we sift through thick and thin, pleading for some form of divine intervention. At the same time, we try to understand events as they unfold, to no avail.

How do we assist some 2,000-plus retirees destined to lose their pension in the near term? They would be placed in total destitution plastered against the subsequent inability to pay for healthcare, health insurance, real estate insurance, real estate loan, utilities, gasoline and water.

This summertime blues would usher in a new chapter in our developmental history: Largest Foreclosures! Many families would be homeless and it is especially hard for those who have spent lifetime savings keeping up with real estate loans for the first family home.

The combined displacement of retirees and some government workers would certainly turn our summertime blues into heavy decibels of hopelessness that would find a sore chapter in our lifetime. What does the future hold?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To all elected officials

This is to express my opinion regarding the dilemma facing our CNMI Retirement Fund program. Let me say from the outset that all retirees' accrued benefits cannot be reduced so long as there is a functioning CNMI government or that the people, by constitutional amendment, have not voted to reduce such pension. Since neither of these two criteria have occurred, retirees' pension cannot be stopped, reduced, or otherwise compromised in any manner whatsoever.

There are proposals being discussed now that appear to be in contradiction to our constitutional provision regarding the Retirement Fund program. One such proposal is to transfer the CNMI pension plan to the U.S. Social Security system. Since pension protection is in the CNMI Constitution and people have not voted to allow such transfer, this proposal cannot move forward without the people's approval. Second, the proposed plan to reduce the retirees' pension by certain percentages is an absolute and clear violation of the constitutional provision under Amendment 19, which states that "accrued benefits of this system shall be neither diminished nor impaired."

Let me review a little history of why the retirement program is now in such a mess. No doubt there were incomprehensible laws passed that affected the orderly process and management of the Retirement Fund program. At present, the CNMI retirement system has three different classes of retirement program: Class I, Class II and the defined contribution class. To further complicate the system, each class has its own benefits formula and contribution formula. Second, the most idiotic law ever passed involves giving a 30-percent bonus pay for people who want to retire. Fortunately, it was stopped after hundreds took advantage of this stupid law. Third, the Legislature keeps changing the rules of pension contribution withdrawal. From not allowing employees to withdraw their contribution if they have worked for 10 years or longer, to now allowing everyone to withdraw their contribution. As of this writing, the "50 percent withdrawal bill" is still on the table for possible override after Governor Fitial vetoed the bill last month. Fourth, the Legislature passed a law in mid-2000 allowing the administration not to remit its retirement for 18 months. This law clearly and blatantly exposed the real sentiments of both the Legislature and the Executive Branch—that they don't gives a damn about protecting our CNMI Retirement Fund program. Fortunately, the Retirement board sued the government and the court agreed that the administration needs to pay its required contribution. However, since the administration is operating on a shoestring budget, it naturally follows that only a token payment can be made. Of course, this slow payment of government contribution started way back in 1999 and got worse as the years went by. Now, everyone is busy trying to find a solution to this problem that they and their predecessors created in the first place. The old adage s now being played in front of our eyes: "You broke it, you fix it."

Certain remedies are obvious if you elected official have the guts to bite the bullet. As you know, the formulation of our government provides for the power to raise taxes. It has the power to reduce non-essential employees, travel, rentals and other activities. It has the power to reduce expenditure by eliminating or combining departments or agencies that are not constitutionally mandated. It has the power to do whatever it takes to find additional revenue (like cutting tax rebate, etc.) to give to the Fund what it owes. The bottom line is that no matter how you look at it, the Retirement Fund's survival takes precedence in terms of budget funding over any other department or agency of the government that is not constitutionally created or providing greatly needed public services.

It is really shameful, immoral and regrettable that the very government that is supposed to protect the livelihood of people is doing the opposite by giving us nothing but hopelessness. No government should put its people in such a situation.

In closing, the destiny of the CNMI Retirement Fund and its future are in your hands. Seize the opportunity to provide leadership so we can all look forward to a better tomorrow. Failure to do so will create unprecedented misery and suffering to thousands of our people, including me.

Justin S. Manglona
Sinapalo, Rota

A change in behavior

The news in the *Marianas Variety* regarding "CHC in talks with flying docs" about the CNMI qualifying as the poorest of the poor is downright absurd and stupid. Of course we may run out of cash, we may run out of material things for comfort but no one in the CNMI will ever be hungry, even on Saipan. The mission that operates under the "Mother Teresa Principle" is for the truly poor. That is, people without food and shelter. In the CNMI, there is ample food and shelter and only the truly stupid will disagree. On Rota for example, there is an abundance of food all around the island. You name it, coconut, breadfruits, breadfruit nuts (docdoc), fish, crabs, and many other food sources that anyone can turn to for sustenance. What we may not have is money or material things.

Those people Mother Teresa was targeting were kids or adults that were skin and bones due to the lack of food and the lack of shelter; the truly poor. Look around you. Here in the CNMI we call our poor that are normally overweight poor, those without money but ample food stamp to buy food for sustenance. No, I don't call them poor, I call them unfortunate because of the fact that they do not have the education to turn to the ample resources where they can make a living.

We are rich with resources. We are simply not making good use of those resources that are available around us. We have abundance of food. We have abundance of shelters, look at the hundreds of empty building. More than 75 percent of the entire CNMI population is overweight. Our health crises is proof of this. Heart disease, diabetes and many other health related issues prove that we are rich in food and shelter, quite the opposite of those people in India that Mother Teresa was helping. No wonder why most of us in the CNMI look like pigs, we have so much food. I myself used to look like a pig. I had a heart attack and diabetes and now I stopped behaving like a pig. Look around, many of us behave like pigs. What we need is a change of behavior and a change of attitude, otherwise we should be looking at the mirror and really ask ourselves: What is my problem? If the whole CNMI can focus on that, maybe we can all help the corporation and change our approach by having a program of prevention instead of a cure of what could have been prevented in the first place.

Just like our government, we are trying to fix something that could have been prevented. Just like our economy, we first destroyed it way back and every single election we talk about fixing it.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

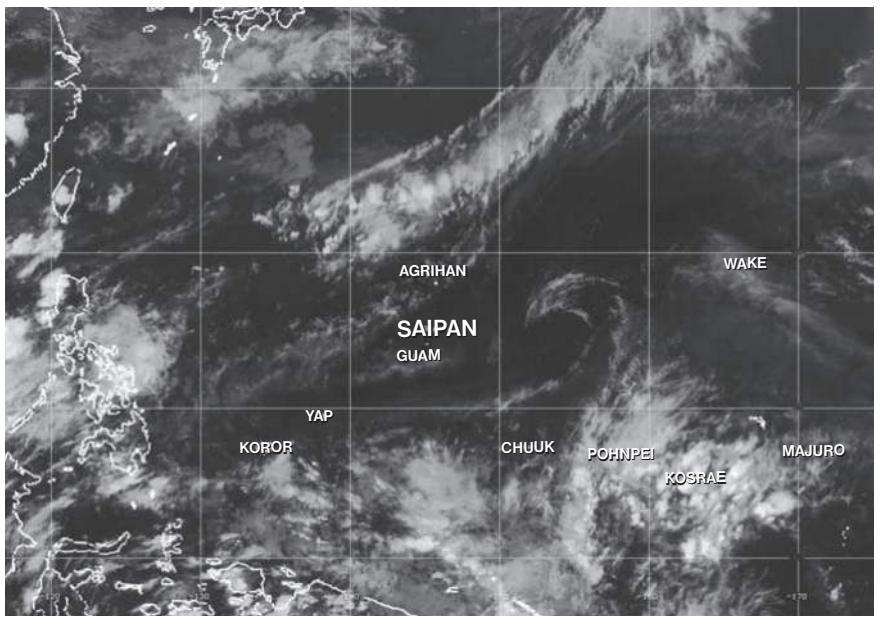
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Windy	▲60	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲56	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲80	▼62
Osaka	Rain	▲75	▼68
Paris	Showers	▲69	▼55
Pusan	Rain	▲72	▼65
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼67
Salem	Rain	▲61	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲83	▼64
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼67
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southward from 25N149E to 19N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 225 miles north of the front including Iwo To island. A monsoon trough stretches southeastward from east of Koror at 7N138E to a weak circulation centered near 2N156E. Scattered showers are found south of Koror between 1N and 7N from 133E to 139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also found southeast of Yap and south of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 7N142E to EQ153E. Trade-wind convergence east of the circulation is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Pohnpei, Kosrae and south of Majuro within 275 miles of a line from 9N158E to 3N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:29 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:17 PM	9:19 AM
Saturday	11:01 PM	10:15 AM
Sunday	11:41 PM	11:08 AM
Monday		11:58 AM
Tuesday	12:20 AM	12:47 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on June 11-15, from 8am to 12:59am. The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 12-13, from 8am to 5pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Juan L. Babauta on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, June 9, 2012, Marianas Agupa will feature Juan L. Babauta from the Commonwealth Cancer Association to talk about the 2012 CNMI National Cancer Survivors Week. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions (direct to studio at 234-5929 or instant messaging via Marianas Agupa's Facebook account. The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Tanapag Elementary School activities

- June 8: End of the Year Awards ceremony 8:30am on school campus
- June 11: 4th Quarter report cards and awards certificates to be sent home with students
- June 12: Last day of classes.

For more information, contact the main office at 664-3425/26/27. ***(PR)***

Renewal of alcohol license being accepted

The Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is reminding all licensed business establishments that applications for Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewals are now being accepted. Application forms may be obtained at the Department of Commerce located at the Donni Hill Complex, Capital Hill Road, Pohnpei Street. Application forms may be downloaded at www.commerce.gov.mp. The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is June 30, 2012. For more information, call the ABTC Division at 664-3065. ***(PR)***

J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES
Presents
THE 2012
KIKKOMAN
COOK-OFF
Saturday, June 30, 2012 at 12:00 pm
Joeten Susupe Shopping Center
Limit: 10 Contestants per Category
Categories: Appetizer and Main Entrée
DO YOU LOVE COOKING? Are you a die-hard Kikkoman fan? Mix the two together and prove it! Enter your signature dish in The 2012 Kikkoman Cook-Off as either an appetizer or main entrée. Let our judges decide who the real Kikkoman Chef is! Note: dish must incorporate a Kikkoman product.
Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. All participants will be given a Joeten T-shirt. Deadline to enter: Saturday, June 23, 2012
Entry Form
Name:
Address:
Daytime Phone Number:
Email Address:
Please attach a copy of your recipe to your entry form.
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Fitial withdraws Guerrero's nomination to MPLT board

HIGHEST GPA AWARD

Arvin Dayao, right, and Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga show off their trophies for receiving the Highest Grade Point Average in fourth grade and third grade class, respectively, and Highest GPA for the Elementary Department. The awarding ceremony was held yesterday during the elementary graduation at the GCA auditorium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial withdrew yesterday from the Senate his appointment of Francisco Q. Guerrero to the Marianas Public Land Trust board, while at the same time re-appointing Jeremy J. Atalig of Rota to the CNMI State Rehabilitation Council.

Fitial withdrew Guerrero's appointment in a one-page letter to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Fitial's recall of Guerrero's appointment comes days after Guerrero was arrested on charges of allegedly molesting a 16-year-old girl. He is free on bail after being allowed to post a property bond.

On May 14, the governor nominated Guerrero, also a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair, to serve on the MPLT board for a six-year term.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chair of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reiterated that he looks forward to Fitial's submission of another name for the MPLT board and for other boards and commissions.

Fitial also re-appointed yesterday Jeremy J. Atalig to the CNMI State Rehabilitation Council, representing the business, labor and industry on Rota. The Senate's advice and consent is not required in this nomination.

Atalig's term begins immediately and will expire on May 19, 2015. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

Water systems reminded to issue 2011 report

Community water systems are being reminded to distribute their Consumer Confidence Report for 2011 to customers by July 1, 2012. A copy of the report must also be delivered to the Division of Environmental Quality by July 1, 2012.

Acceptable distribution methods for the CCR include:

- Mail or deliver one copy of the report to each customer
- Systems that bill customers by mail should mail a copy of the CCR to each billed customer. Enough copies of the CCR should be sent to single billed customers that have multiple residential units, such as apartment buildings, so that each residential unit can receive a copy.
- Bottled water companies should direct deliver the CCR to each of their customer's homes during home delivery of water, deliver copies of the CCR to retail outlets for distribution with retail sales, and post notices on bulk water retail tanks that the CCR is available upon request.
- Community water systems serving 500 or fewer people (hotels, garment factories, etc.) may either post the CCR in an appropriate location for their resident workers, or post a notice that the CCR is available upon request.
- Every community water system must makes its CCR available to the public upon request.

For assistance in preparing the CCR, there is an EPA document that one can print a copy from—*Preparing Your Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report: Revised Guidance for Water Supplier* dated January 2001 (this document is available online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater or http://www.deq.gov.mp).

DEQ Safe Drinking Water staff is also available to review a draft of the CCR. Just arrange an appointment with CCR coordinator Juliana DLR. Mendoza at 664-8500 prior to June 22, 2011, if you want help with preparing your CCR. ***(DEQ)***

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* Kia Sportage total price $21,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $348.40 or $160.80 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $20,904.00. Kia Forte total price $17,195.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $272.37 or $125.71 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $16,342.20. Documentation fees and registration not included.

OAG, credit union working to disburse withdrawals equitably

There has been growing concern about the Commonwealth Government Employees Credit Union's ability to pay out member withdrawals. The delay is a result of two recent and unexpected events. The Office of the Attorney General and the credit union are working to resolve all issues and will seek to disburse funds in a manner that provides equitable treatment of all members.

First, the credit union's last serving board member resigned last week, leaving it unable to obtain signatures required to process member withdrawals. The governor has recruited sufficient individuals to serve on the board and expects their appointments will be finalized within a few days.

Second, the credit union has experienced an unprecedented amount of member withdrawals. It was in default on its $2 million loan from the Retirement Fund. Although the parties were actively discussing a mutually beneficial plan to cure any defaults outside of court, the Retirement Fund recently filed an adversary proceeding in its bankruptcy to recover the loan balance.

Understandably, the Retirement Fund's filing caused credit union members to be concerned about their deposit accounts. This led to mass withdrawals over the last few days and many more are anticipated in the near future. Such mass withdrawal would cause a disruption to any credit union, as it is not a part of a financial institution's regular operation. Careful planning is necessary to ensure all withdrawals are timely and equitably honored. Specifically, the credit union wants to avoid paying some members immediately at the expense and to the prejudice of other members. Many options are being considered at this time, such as payment of withdrawals in pro rata installments.

The Office of the Attorney General is working with the government and the credit union to resolve these issues with member withdrawals in a timely and efficient manner. The main concern of all agencies involved is that all member withdrawal requests are paid fairly and systematically. ***(Office of the Attorney General)***

13th Summer Eco-Camp begins next week

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Trekking will be holding its annual Summer Eco-Adventure Camp, offering children the chance to take advantage of the undeveloped beauty of the northern part of Saipan.

This marks the 13th year for the camp, which is open to children 4 to 15 years old, locals and tourists, and will run in two week sessions starting Monday, June 11, until Aug. 3.

The Summer Eco-Adventure Camp will provide a fun, interactive, and educational environment for young vacationers to learn, share, and play with a low student-to-instructor ratio.

Facilities for the camp include swimming pools, a golf course, soccer fields, snorkel and kayak beach, go kart track, stables, tennis court, and buffet lunch option.

The camp program consists of swimming lessons, go kart, kayaking, snorkeling, volleyball, mountain biking, movie making, golf, field games and trips, arts & crafts, dance, and much more.

The Summer Eco-Adventure Camp will be held at the Mariana Resort & Spa from 9am to 3pm, with complimentary extended care up to 5pm.

"It's not only the best place for local kids to spend the summer and make some new friends, but it's also a great place for tourists' kids to have fun and explore Saipan," said Marianas Trekking manager Elly Stoilova.

Stoilova said participants will be grouped according to age and each group will have counselors who will interact with them throughout the day.

Usually, she said, local participants sign up for two-week sessions while visiting campers join for shorter sessions.

"The kids will have activities in the ocean or pool at least once a day, and the organizers also plan indoor activities as well so there is a good balance in the schedule," added Stoilova.

Local children can avail of the special price of $30 per day, $125 per week or $195 per session, which is equivalent to two weeks.

Stoilova noted that participants have the option to bring their own midday meal, although they can be provided with a buffet lunch at the resort for an additional $6 per day.

Marianas Trekking offers the camp in partnership with Mariana Resort. For more information, log on to www.marianas-trekking.com or call 323-8735.

Hyatt Saipan offers online restaurant reservation

Hyatt Regency Saipan has launched an online restaurant reservation system allowing guests to conveniently book and confirm their bookings. Upon visiting the "dining and entertainment" section of the official hotel website, guests can choose which restaurant they wish to make reservations in.

With this newly launched innovation, Hyatt Regency Saipan's guests can enjoy the wide variety of restaurants and cuisines the hotel offers through a user-friendly reservations system.

Be the first to enjoy this innovation by visiting saipan.regency.hyatt.com and selecting the "dining & entertainment" section.

Hyatt Regency Saipan, a 317-room hotel, is located in Garapan, Saipan on 14 acres of lush, tropical gardens, with lagoons and the magnificent Micro Beach. Reservations for Hyatt Regency Saipan may be made by calling (670) 234-1234 or visiting saipan.regency.hyatt.com. ***(Hyatt)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-12

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for **Trash Collection Services** for a period of **two years** at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing trash collection services for the Airport as described in the scope of work. The **bid package** which includes the **scope of work, draft agreement, and insurance requirements** will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning **Friday, May 25, 2012**. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport".* One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

The apparent lowest bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and insurance requirements. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive and responsible," their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A **pre-bid conference** will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **9:00 am, Tuesday, June 12, 2012** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

May 15, 2012
Date

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROJECT BRABU

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention Unit - Project Brabu is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds, through the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) for eligible communities in the CNMI to apply. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Details of the grant and funds available are listed below.

I. Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG): FY2012 $400,000

The planning and implementation of this grant award will focus on four primary goals:

1.) Build Prevention Capacity and Infrastructure in the CNMI
2.) Prevent the Initiation of and Reduce Substance Abuse, Including Childhood and Underage Drinking
3.) Reduce Substance Abuse-related Problems
4.) Evaluate All Activities

The SPF SIG provides awarded communities with the opportunity to build and/or strengthen an effective and sustainable evidence-based prevention program that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI community. Community programs are required to implement evidence-based prevention programs focused on the following priorities that have been determined by Project Brabu and the State Epidemiological Workgroup (SEW):

1) Underage Drinking, and/or
2) Drinking and Driving

This grant award requires a **Strategic Prevention Framework** to help guide communities toward successful program management process following the five steps below:

1) Assessment: Accurately assess community problems, assets, and resources;
2) Capacity: Describe current capacity and/or plans to build capacity;
3) Planning: Develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan;
4) Implement: Identify the evidence-based program, policy, or practice to be implemented;
5) Evaluate: Process and impact evaluation through monitoring and documentation of program implementation.

The Project Brabu Advisory Council will make the final approval in consultation and collaboration with the SPF SIG Project Director on applications to be awarded based on a point system. The grant application guidelines detail the information required and the points under each of the sections.

All completed applications must be submitted to the CHCC: DPH Project Brabu's office on Saipan and the Prevention Coordinators on Tinian and Rota no later than 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2012.

Sub-Grant Application forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Project Brabu Office at the CHCC: DPH or the Substance Abuse Prevention offices on Rota and Tinian. Also, the application form and guidelines are available online at www.cgcspn.net. (under the Public Health Central link, Project Brabu 2012) For more information, please contact Ms. Tiara Evangelista at 236-8740 or ti.evangelista@gmail.com (Saipan); Mr. Keith Nabors, Prevention Coordinator (Tinian) at 433-6572 or tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com; or Ms. Avery Hocog, Prevention Coordinator (Rota) at 532-9461 or projectbraburota@yahoo.com.

Pre application workshops are scheduled as follows:

- June 13 (Saipan), TBD
- June 14 (Tinian), TBD
- June 15 (Rota), TBD

These workshops will provide on-site technical assistance in discussing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) 5-step process, the sub grant components and requirements. The workshops are available to interested community members/agencies and are free of charge.

/s/ Mr. Claudio Norita
Chairman, Advisory Council

/s/ Mrs. Reyna Saures
SPF SIG Project Director

Marine monument council wraps up meeting with draft bylaws

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Council wrapped up its inaugural meeting Wednesday with a preliminary draft of the council's bylaws, a considerable feat that the group accomplished in just two days.

Salient points in the initial bylaws were refined by the council for several hours on Wednesday, the second of the two-day meeting, and the document now heads to the legal counsels of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of the Interior for review.

These bylaws provide an important link between the advice-giving body and its end goal of developing a management plan for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, a plan that would help the two federal agencies in carrying out their respective management roles.

"To do it in three hours is nothing short of miraculous, monumental," said Susan White, Pacific Reefs superintendent for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. "It's a testament to everybody's commitment to making this advisory council really work."

White said the council's accomplishment demonstrates the members' desire to work together and coordinate with federal agencies, establishing their critical role in the overall management of the monument.

"The commitment of the advisory council members to really make progress and move forward together to make sure that their agencies and their interests are being heard and at the table," she added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Mariana Trench Monument Advisory Council. Front row, left to right: vice chair John Joyner, CNMI; Arnold Palacios, CNMI; Susan White, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; council chair Benigno M. Sablan, CNMI; Lisa Ku'ulei Croft, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Morgan Roper, U.S. Coast Guard. Back row, left to right: Heidi Hirsh, NOAA; Roy Tsutsui, U.S. Department of Defense; and Barry Stieglitz, U.S. FWS.

Council chair Benigno M. Sablan, who presided over the meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan, said the progress made by the council in creating an initial draft of the bylaws was a result of the "same channel of thoughts" of its members and representatives of the involved federal agencies.

For his part, council member Arnold Palacios of the CNMI said all the members' previous experiences in putting together councils and committees were a "plus," allowing the MTMAC to move forward with the mandates of the presidential proclamation that created them in the first place.

Sablan noted, though, that what would hold up the process at this point would be the legal framework that would be taken into consideration in finalizing the plan. He said this could take months, even years.

"Once it's all contained within the legal framework, we'll be able to have it signed with all five signatures," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Palacios, secretary of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, said the council's achievement in the bylaws will allow them to proceed to the "real task" that lies ahead.

"We've accomplished a milestone but the bigger work is ahead of us, and that is to put together the real management plan for the marine monument," he said. "It's not going to be easy. It's something that will take a lot of time, a lot of dedication, and a lot of public input."

Part of the agenda of yesterday's meeting was agency reports from both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service. Specifics on the reports were not readily available for those who were not at the meeting. Agency representatives assured, though, that the details will be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting, which will soon be posted on their respective websites.

Public comments were entertained toward the end of the meeting and initiated interesting discussions among council members. The need to include the visitor's center in future action items or agenda list, the creation of a local office for the council, and maintaining the council's current number of members and without alternate members were among the ideas brought to the council's table.

Sablan expressed hope that more members of the island community will show interest in the council's process leading to the development of a management plan for the marine monument, the protection and conservation of which is above all for the islands' future generations.

The council collectively agreed to hold a teleconference meeting on Sept. 5 (local time) and conduct a face-to-face meeting at least annually.

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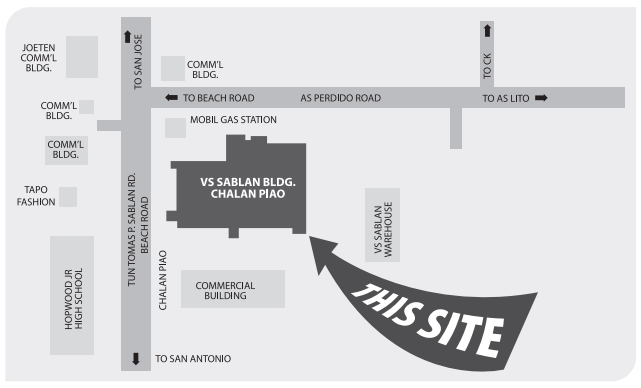

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King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal **$31.99**

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Ox & Palm Corned Beef **$2.99** 11.5 OZ.

Spam All Kinds **$2.39** EA

Black Label Luncheon **$1.79** EA..

Libby's Vienna Sausage **59¢** 5 OZ.

Ace of Diamond Tuna **$1.29** 7 OZ.

Beach Cliff Sardines **99¢**

Century Tuna **89¢** 7 OZ.

Waioka Tuna **89¢**

Armour Treet Luncheon Loaf **$1.69**

Hormel Chili with Beans **$1.69** 15 OZ.

Hormel Chili No Beans **$1.79** 15 OZ.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce **$3.99** 1.6 L.

Morton Salt **89¢** 450 gm

Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle **$6.49** 1 GAL.

Dinty Moore Beef Stew **$1.69** 15 OZ.

Dinty Moore Meatball Stew **$1.69** 15 OZ.

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash **$1.99** 6.5 OZ.

Campbells Chicken Noodle **89¢** 10 OZ.

Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce (all kinds) **$1.39** 26.5oz.

Del Monte Whole Corn **99¢** 15 OZ.

Kellogg's Tri-pak 58 oz. **$13.99**

General Mills Tri-pak **$8.99**

Argo Corn Starch **99¢** 1 LB.

Gold Medal Flour **$3.25** 37.02 OZ.

Duncan Hines Cake Mix **$1.99**

Country Lime Lemonade **$7.99**

Tang Orange **$7.99** 22 QTS.

Kool-Aid **$7.99** 34 QTS.

Coffee Mate **$7.99** 50 OZ.

Folgers Coffee **$11.99** 33.3 OZ.

Maxwell Coffee Mix **$7.99** 100CT.

Fresco Vegetable Oil **$9.49** 1 GAL.

Dragon Vegetable Oil **$9.49** 1 GAL.

DelMonte Ketchup **$4.69** 2 64 OZ.

Royal Spaghetti Noodle **$2.49** 1 kg.

Foremost Milk **$20.99**

White Sugar 2kg **$2.79** 2 KG.

Kruataia Coconut Milk **99¢**

Golden State Vinegar **$3.99** 2 1 GAL.

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Pringles (All Kinds) **$1.99**

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Chicken Leg Qtr	$4.99	Pork Butt Steak	$9.99
Chicken Nuggets	$11.99	Beef Ribeye	$15.99
Turkey Tail	$6.99	Beef Stew	$12.99
Mackerel Fish	$5.99	Beef Shank	$11.99
Pork Hock	$6.99	Beef Feet	$7.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99	Beef Shortribs	$15.99
Pork Bellies	$11.99	Ox Tail	$15.99
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BEVERAGE

Juicy Juice 6.75 oz. All Flavors **$2.25** pack

Kool-Aid Jammers/ Caprisun **$2.99** BOX

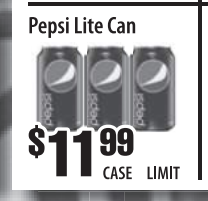
Sunkist **$6.99** CASE

Rota Water 500 ml. **$5.50** CASE

Ruby Kist Orange Juice **$3.79** 64oz.

Ruby Kist Apple Juice **$3.99** 64oz.

Pepsi Lite Can **$11.99** CASE LIMIT



Jinro Soju **$29.99** CASE

Hite Can **$16.99** CASE

PRODUCE

Onion **59¢** LB.

Potato **79¢** LB.

Cabbage **89¢** LB.

Korean Pear **$2.99** LB.

Broccoli **$1.49** LB.

Celo Apple **$3.99** /BAG

Orange **99¢** LB.

Honeydew/ Cantaloupe **99¢** LB.

Garlic **$1.25** 5 PCS.

U.S. X-Large Eggs **$2.25** 1 DOZ.

FROZEN

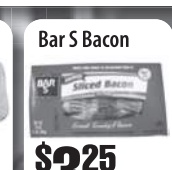
Hashbrown **$4.59** 20PCS. **$2.29** 10PCS.

Bar S Jumbo Franks **$1.19**

Millers Sausage **$16.99**

Bar S Ham **$18.99** 10LBS.

Bar S Bacon **$3.25**



Ground Beef **$11.99** 5LBS.

Chamorro Sausage **$4.49** 10LBS.

Ground Pork **$22.49** 10LBS.

Tilapia **$1.09** /LB.

Milk Fish **$1.49** /LB.

Green Shell Mussels **$5.99** 2LBS.

Frozen Cut Crab **$6.99**

Sea Wave Calanari **$1.89** 16oz.

S.C. Frozen Shrimp **$3.59** 16oz.

NON-FOOD

Purex **$4.49** 50 OZ.

Gain Liquid **$6.49** 50 OZ. **$10.99** 100 OZ.

Gain Powder 120 loads **$16.99** 50 OZ.

Joy Ultra **$1.49** 12.5 OZ. **$6.99** 90 OZ.

Dawn Dishwashing Soap **$8.99** 90 oz.

Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 2 for **$3.00**

Head & Shoulders Shampoo **$7.99** 23OZ.

Huggies Big **$18.99** BOX

Luvs Big **$17.99** BOX

Bounty Paper Towel **$19.99** 15 Rolls

Charmin Ultra Strong Tissue **$6.99** 24 Rolls

Charmin Basic Toilet paper **$8.29** 12ROLLS **$14.99** 24ROLLS

Foam Plates **$3.29** 50 CT **$7.99** 125 CT

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Business

Fed survey finds US growth, hiring mostly steady

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy grew moderately in most regions of the country this spring and companies kept hiring, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday

The mostly upbeat survey offered a hopeful sign after last week's more dismal data on hiring and manufacturing. Those reports sketched a picture of an economy that is slumping after a promising winter.

The positive survey, which is anecdotal, also makes it less likely that Fed policymakers will take further action in the coming months to lift the economy. The survey doesn't suggest the economy is in dire need of help, many economists said.

"This report was more upbeat than probably anyone expected," said Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets. That suggests that "some of the soft reports on payrolls, auto sales, and manufacturing may be temporary."

The Fed survey shows growth in each of its 12 bank districts from April 3 through May 25. Growth picked up in 10 districts. It was steady in the Boston district, which includes all of New England, and slowed in the Philadelphia region, which includes Delaware, New Jersey and parts of Pennsylvania.

Hiring was steady or rose modestly, according to the Fed's report, known as the "Beige Book." That's in stark contrast to the government's jobs report last week, which said U.S. employers added just 69,000 jobs in May, the fewest in a year. Since averaging 252,000 a month from December through February, job growth has slowed to a lackluster average of 96,000 a month from March through May.

"We are encouraged by the overall tone ... because it suggests that business contacts are not experiencing a sharp drop-off in activity amid the heightened economic uncertainty of late," Joseph LaVorgna, an economist at Deutsche Bank, said in a note to clients.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke is expected to update his views on the economy and the Fed's policies during a congressional hearing Thursday.

It was the second positive reading on the economy this week. On Tuesday, a private survey found that the service sector expanded at a slightly faster pace than the previous month.

Study: China investment in Europe triples

BEIJING (AP)—China's annual corporate investment in Europe tripled last year to $10 billion and appears to be driven mostly by commercial motives, not government directives, a study released Thursday said.

Chinese companies are beginning a surge in outbound global investment that could total $2 trillion by 2020, said the report by Rhodium Group, a New York City-based research firm.

The report comes as the United States and other governments maneuver to attract investment from China but also face opposition because of questions about Chinese motives and possible security threats. Chinese companies have made a series of high-profile acquisitions in Europe over the past two years, expanding faster there than in the United States.

"Europe is experiencing the start of a structural surge in outbound direct investment in advanced economies by Chinese firms," said the report, prepared in partnership with China International Capital Corp., a government-owned investment bank, and Brunswick Group, a public relations firm.

Apartment and Condominium for Rent

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

One Year Contract: Regular Price from ~~$650.00~~ NOW $500.00
Monthly Basis: Price Ranges from $550.00
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-duty security guard at night
- Parking space
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Swimming pool

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

Monthly Basis: Studio Type - $350.00 • 1 Bedroom - $450.00
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, nearby 747 Dining & Bar
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-site maintenance
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- Parking space

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

One Year Contract: Studio – Regular Price ~~$350.00~~ NOW $250.00
2 Bedroom Regular Price ~~$550.00~~ NOW $400.00
Monthly Basis: Studio Type - $270.00 • 2 Bedroom - $420.00
LOCATION: SAN JOSE, right next to Roshi's Store (along Beach Rd)
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-site maintenance
- Swimming pool w/ BBQ area
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- Spacious yard
- Broad parking space (front area and backside)

Apartment Promo
monthly basis-renewable until June 30, 2012

UNITS FOR SALE

ANAKS RESORT
Available units:
2-BEDROOM—Size: 79 square meter
3-BEDROOM—Size: 123 square meter

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM
Available units:
1-BEDROOM—Size: 60 square meter
2-BEDROOM—Size: 75 square meter
3-BEDROOM—Size: 120 square meter

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For further details: You can visit ATOM's CO., LTD. office, located in Garapan, Saipan. Our office hour is 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekends. You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

Pretty Market

Big sale day!

We Accept Food Stamp

24 hours

Monday

Bowl noodle $7.49 case

Milk fish $1.39 lb

XL egg $2.19

Suavitel buy one get one free $2.99 2pcs

Tide washing powder $3.49 2.8kg

Corned beef $2.99

Tuesday

Roasted Laver $1.89

Maxwell coffee mix $1.69 20 sticks

Eight O' clock orange mango $1.39 440g

Eight O' clock mango $1.39 440g

Black label Lucheon Loaf $1.79 16oz

Best food mayonnaise $7.99 40oz

Wednesday

Colgate Fresh confidence $1.59 100ml $1.89 150ml

Downy softener $1.29 450ml

Oreo sandwich cookies $1.39

TEPTIP Coconut milk $1.09

Roll paper 3 layers $3.88 pack

Best food mayonnaise $5.99 30oz

Thursday

Aroy-D coconut milk $1.59

Squid fish sauce $1.75

Colgate gel Xtreme red $1.89 150ml

Bao Bao biscuit $1.39

Frosted Flakes $3.39 14oz $3.99 17oz

Best food mayonnaise $3.39 15oz

Friday

Royal spaghetti $1.39 450g

Palmolive naturals $1.89

Asahi 本生 $18.99 case

Heineken beer $25.99 case

Colgate Maximum protection $1.89

Best food mayonnaise $1.99 8 oz

Saturday

Kirkland soymilk plain/vanilla $1.89

Kool-Aid tropical punch $8.99 2.5oz

Vega shrimps $5.75 box

hite beer $15.99 case

KING CHEF $31.99 5 GL

Miller Best light $17.19 case

Sunday

Sliced bacon $3.19 box

Flour $2.88

Spam lite $2.38

ICHIBAN $7.49 case

Kikkoman soy sauce $4.19

Mega butane gas $22.99 case

Pretty Host *Has New Fashion Arrival ! and 50% off on selected items!*

(Beach road , near Mobil gas station , garapan) *Tel: 233-6618*

Pretty Tour KTV 233-8588

Beer $ 2 each can

Located in Garapan near the century hotel. Tel:233-8688 *Pretty Life , Starting from here!*

Nation

Official: Dock found in Ore. is debris from Japan

JEFF BARNARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
A man looks at the massive dock with Japanese lettering that washed ashore on Agate Beach Wednesday, June 6, 2012, in Newport, Ore.

A nearly 70-foot-long dock that floated ashore on an Oregon beach was torn loose from a fishing port in northern Japan by last year's tsunami and drifted across thousands of miles of Pacific Ocean, a Japanese Consulate official said Wednesday.

A commemorative plaque on the dock showed it was one of four owned by Aomori Prefecture that broke loose from the port of Misawa on the northern tip of the main island, Deputy Consul Hirofumi Murabayashi said from Portland, Ore.

One of the four docks turned up several weeks later on an island south of Misawa, but the other two are still missing, said Akihisa Sato, an engineer with Zeniya Kaiyo Service, the dock's Tokyo-based manufacturer.

The docks weigh 165 tons each, Sato said.

The one that floated to Oregon was first spotted floating offshore Monday, and mistaken by several people for a barge, said Chris Havel, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation. It washed ashore early Tuesday on Agate Beach, a mile north of Newport on the central Oregon Coast. It's made of concrete with a metal pontoon and measures 66 feet long, 19 feet wide and 7 feet high.

The distance between Japan and Oregon is roughly 5,000 miles.

A starfish native to Japan was among the marine life still clinging to the structure after the long voyage, Havel said.

"This is tsunami debris, not just from Japan, but from the tsunami itself," Havel said.

John Chapman, a research scientist at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, said hundreds of millions of other organisms also hitchhiked across the ocean on the dock—some of which are invasive species never before seen on this part of the West Coast.

Among the organisms are a species of tiny crab that has run wild on the East Coast but not on the West, and a kind of algae that has hit southern California but not Oregon, Chapman said.

"This is a very clear threat," he said. "It's exactly like saying you threw a bowling ball into a China shop. It's going to break something. But will it be valuable or cheap glass. It's incredibly difficult to predict what will happen next."

A radiation check of the dock came up negative, which was to be expected if the dock broke loose before the nuclear power plant accident triggered by the waves, Havel said. The parks department was overseeing efforts to identify and remove the dock.

State police were posted to keep people from climbing on the dock, said Mitch Vance, shellfish program manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Vance took samples of the mussels, barnacles and other shellfish clinging to the dock Wednesday morning. There also was green algae and brown kelp, he said.

Tom Cleveland, a housekeeping supervisor at some nearby beachfront condominiums, said the dock washed ashore in a storm, and people curious to see it have been jamming up traffic at a beach parking lot.

"Everybody and their brother has been here looking at it and checking it out," Cleveland said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ark. teen who shot sleeping sister gets 45 years

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (AP)—An Arkansas teen pleaded guilty Wednesday to murdering his sleeping sister and was sentenced to 45 years in prison for a crime he still hasn't fully explained. Colton Harvey, 15, grabbed his father's .22-caliber rifle one January morning while his parents were out grocery shopping. He walked into his 16-year-old sister Candace's room, pointed it at her forehead and fired. She awoke with a scream, so he shot her in the head twice more. He threw some clothes and ammunition in his father's pickup truck and took off, driving first into the hills but then to the sheriff's office, where he chickened out in the parking lot. He drove to a friend's for some chewing tobacco—a vice that led to his parents grounding him days earlier—and then back to the sheriff's, where this time he found the courage to go in and confess.

NJ Muslims file federal suit to stop NYPD spying

WASHINGTON (AP)—One of the Obama administration's go-to civil rights groups in its efforts to build relationships with American Muslims is suing the New York Police Department over its surveillance programs, some of which were paid for with federal money. Eight Muslims filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday in New Jersey to force the NYPD to end its surveillance and other intelligence-gathering practices targeting Muslims in the years after the 2001 terrorist attacks. The lawsuit alleged that the NYPD's activities were unconstitutional because they focused on people's religion, national origin and race.

Congratulations

Tyron B. Ermang

Your parents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends wish to congratulate you for completing and getting your first post-secondary degree (AA Liberal Arts) from the Northern Marianas College!

Good luck to you as you continue working toward your Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. We know that you have the determination and the ability to accomplish your next goal in higher education. You have our blessings and unconditional love and support for your future endeavor.

Regina & Thomas Ermang
Family & Friends

In Celebration of His New Life

JOHN PANGELINAN VILLAGOMEZ
(BOSSING)

JANUARY 22, 1956 - JUNE 02, 2012

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Pineksai : **Michelle** V. and Patrick C. Guerrero (Patrick)
Trenton John P. Villagomez
Brothers, Sister and In-Laws:
Margarita N. Tenorio and family
Carmen L. Villagomez
Juan A. Camacho and family
Manuel P. and Elizabeth F. Villagomez and family
Children and family of ✝Martin P. Villagomez
Jose P. and Patricia C. Villagomez and family
Frank P. and Rell A. Villagomez and family
Magdalena (Maggie) P. Villagomez

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: ✝**Juan Cruz Villagomez** and
✝**Luisa Pangelinan Villagomez**
Brothers, Sister and In-Law:
✝**Eugenio** V. Tenorio
✝**Ricardo** P. Villagomez
✝**Emilia** V. Camacho
✝**Martin** P. and ✝Frances C. Villagomez

Funeral Services will be held tomorrow,
Saturday, June 09, 2012

7:30 AM – Funeral Cortege from
Nuestra Senora dela Paz to Cathedral
7:45 AM – Reception Service at Mt. Carmel Cathedral
8:00 AM – Responso Service
8:30 AM – Holy Rosary
9:00 AM – Viewing/Last Respects
11:00 AM – Mass of Christian Burial
12:00 NOON – Interment Service

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications
An agreement with NMCADSV's philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
High School Diploma or Equivalent
Experience providing clerical and administrative support
Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
Flexible Schedule
(May be occasionally required to work evenings and weekends)
Must be able to Travel

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
1 year documented experience/work with non-profit and/or charitable organizations or volunteerism
Own transportation with a valid driver's license, insurance and registration

For a full list of duties, please stop by the NMCADSV office or email at endviolencenmi@gmail.com.
No phone inquiries, please.

Salary Range: $10.00/hr ~ $14.00/hr (based on experience)

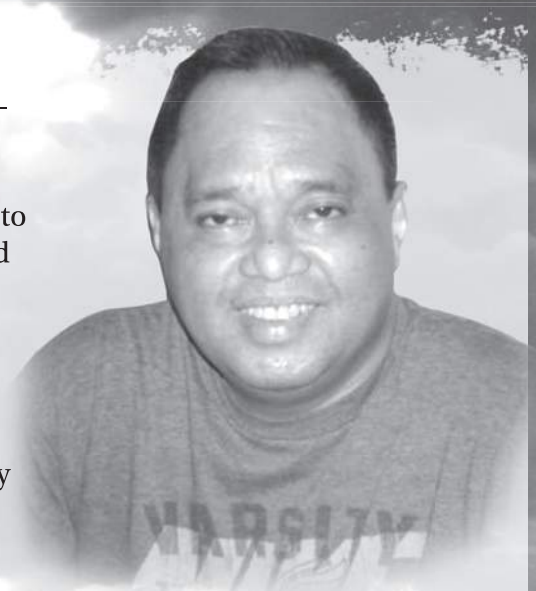
Application Deadline and Submission Information
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 22, 2012**.
If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only.
Late submissions will not be considered.

Applications can be submitted via email to endviolencenmi@gmail.com, delivered to NMCADSV's office **(between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. ONLY)** at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road (north of XO Market), or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance, and a list of references.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants: Grant # 2010-AX-MU-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-1101MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

JOHN PANGELINAN VILLAGOMEZ



On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), we would like to express our sincere sadness and sympathies to the family of the late John P. Villagomez on his untimely passing. John was a highly valuable and respected member of the CPA family and the effects of his loss are already being felt at CPA by his fellow employees and management.

Throughout his time at CPA, his dedication and selfless nature was always something that many others could only hope to attain and all who knew him regarded him with great respect and admiration. John was indeed a remarkable man and we here at CPA are all better people for having known him.

Please accept our profound and heartfelt condolence at this most difficult of times. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

With sincere sympathy,

EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Syrian activists report wave of violence in Hama

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian activists have reported a surge of bloodshed in the central Hama province with at least 23 people killed—and possibly many more. The exact circumstances of the violence were impossible to independently confirm late Wednesday. Rami Abdul-Rahman, the head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, says he has gathered the names of 23 people killed in shelling and other attacks. But the Local Coordination Committees, an activist group, says at least 78 were dead.

Scores of Afghans killed in violence across nation

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Scores of Afghans were killed Wednesday in Taliban attacks and other violence including a NATO airstrike, highlighting persistent instability as foreign troops begin their drawdown more than a decade after the U.S.-led invasion. The bloodbath spanned from the insurgents' stronghold in the south to the relatively peaceful north to the volatile eastern border with Pakistan. Two U.S. pilots also were killed when their helicopter crashed in Ghazni province in the east, a senior U.S. defense official said.

Mubarak's health worsens amid political crisis

CAIRO (AP)—Hosni Mubarak's health sharply deteriorated Wednesday, days after he was sentenced to life in prison, and specialists were evaluating whether to transfer him to a better-equipped hospital outside the penal system, security officials said. The deposed leader's health scare added to the uncertainty engulfing Egypt, where powerful political groups are seeking to bar Mubarak's former prime minister from the presidential runoff and derail the election.

Carrier defends itself over Nigeria plane crash

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—A Nigerian airline whose airplane crashed in the country's largest city, killing 153 on board and more on the ground, defended itself Wednesday against growing public criticism, saying its own chief engineer died on the doomed flight. Francis Ogboro, an executive who oversees Dana Air, also told journalists the MD-83 that crashed Sunday underwent strenuous checks like the others the carrier owns and that he routinely flies. The chief engineer "certainly would not have allowed that aircraft to take off" if there was a problem, Ogboro said. "No airline crew would go on a suicide mission."

Chinese police raid religious school; 12 kids hurt

BEIJING (AP)—State media reported that staff at a religious school in heavily Muslim far western China set off explosives to fend off a police raid and that 12 children were burned. An overseas rights group, however, blamed tear gas used by paramilitary forces for the injuries. The Tianshan news portal for the Xinjiang region said the 12 were hospitalized after the raid Wednesday, but didn't say how badly they were hurt. Three police and two of the three staff at the school in Hotan city also were injured, it said.

Israel to build 850 more apartments in West Bank

Jerusalem (AP)—Israel says it will build 850 new homes in the West Bank - an effort to appease settlers furious over government plans to dismantle an illegally built settlement outpost. The new homes will include 300 to be built in the Beit El settlement and 550 others that Construction Minister Ariel Attias said on Thursday will be built elsewhere in the West Bank. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved construction of all 850 homes after parliament, at his urging, voted down a bill that would have legalized the Ulpana outpost, built on the outskirts of Beit El.

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CONRAD S. HOFSCHNEIDER, Plaintiff, vs. ANTHONY U. HOFSCHNEIDER, Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 08-0190 NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order Granting Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on March 16, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in the following property: Lot No. 057 T 05: located on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 057 T 01 dated May 4, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1770 dated May 7, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **June 29, 2012**, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the **Tinian court house**, P.O. Box 80 Tinian, MP 96952 San Jose, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; E-mail: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and the loss of any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the property.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Mr. Conrad S. Hofschneider reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of May, 2012.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

JESUS C. BORJA
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 505889
Hagoi Road, Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950-5889
Telephone/Fax: 234-8848
E-mail: jcborja@saipan.com
jesus.borja.tuhu@gmail.com
Attorney for Movant

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EMILIA VILLAGOMEZ CAMACHO, Deceased,	) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 11-0242-CV) **NOTICE OF**) **MOTION/**) **HEARING**) **ON MOTION**

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HER ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Movant, Juan A. Camacho, has filed a Motion to Re-open Probate in the above-entitled action.

A HEARING on the Motion to Re-open Probate will be conducted by the Court on June 19, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 202A CNMI Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order reopening the Estate and appointing Juan A. Camacho, as Administrator thereof should not be made.

Dated April 25, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

AMELITO Q. PAGARAO Petitioner vs. Emma Valles Pagarao Respondent	) FCD-DI) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 12-0060) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 500731 CK Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

Date this 30th day of May, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Off the Wall

Shar Pei nurses 2 endangered tiger cubs

MOSCOW (AP)—Two Siberian tiger cubs abandoned in Russia by their mother have found an unusual wet nurse—a wrinkled, sand-colored Shar Pei dog named Cleopatra, a zoo worker said Wednesday.

The cubs were born late May in a zoo at the Oktyabrsky health resort in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Zoo assistant director Viktoria Kudlayeva said the dog immediately gave the cubs all her attention.

"She accepted them right away," Kudlayeva said in a telephone interview. "She's cleaning them and breast feeding them as if they were her own. And they also sleep together."

The cubs—named Clyopa, after their adopted mother, and Plyusha—are also being fed goat's milk.

Kudlayeva said that the cubs pose no danger to the dog even though they are already showing their claws and hissing.

"They aren't aggressive and they depend on her for feeding," she said.

Fewer than 400 Siberian tigers—also known as Ussuri, Amur or Manchurian tigers—have survived in the wild, most of them in Russia's Far East.

AP

In this picture taken, Monday, June 4, 2012, Shar Pei dog Cleopatra feeds two baby tigers in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, southern Russia.

Ohio school withholds diplomas for excess cheering

CINCINNATI (AP)—A suburban Cincinnati high school held onto four graduates' diplomas and required community service as punishment for what it describes as overly boisterous cheering by their families during the graduation ceremony.

The mother of one of the graduates, who was one of the leading tacklers on the Mount Healthy school football team, doesn't think he should get flagged for excessive celebration.

"What does that have to do with him?" Traci Cornist told Cincinnati radio station WDBZ.

She doesn't dispute there was a lot of loud cheering for Anthony Cornist. Cornist also said she teaches her children to be accountable for their own actions, but she doesn't think he should be punished for what other people do.

"It took away so much from how happy I was," she said. "It makes absolutely no sense."

Schools Superintendent Lori Handler said Wednesday the problem wasn't the loudness of the yells, but their long duration, which she said halted the ceremony.

After past disruptions, a new policy was implemented this year aimed at making sure that all parents can hear their children's names called and celebrated. When they ordered graduation tickets, parents agreed that "any disruptive behavior" would result in their child's diploma being held until 20 hours of community service is completed, she said.

"Our whole push for this was to make sure that every single student's name is heard and recognized," Handler said, adding that that most parents are pleased with the new rules. "Everybody understands that upfront."

Four seniors, of the 205 who went through graduation May 23, were denied their diplomas, she said. When they went to school to pick them up, they got a letter from the principal informing them it was being withheld because of "excessive cheering" by their guests.

The students are considered legal graduates, and are free to use their transcripts as they apply for college or jobs, Handler said.

Dog, left at Missouri rest area, waits for 2 days

HANNIBAL, Mo. (AP)—A 9-month-old Yorkie wasn't about to leave a Missouri rest stop without his master. Mistakenly left behind by an Arkansas truck driver, Rambo waited there for two days until his owner was able to track him down.

Rambo jumped out of Michael Siau's rig when Siau stopped at a rest area near Hannibal on Friday, the Hannibal Courier-Post reported.

"Didn't even cross my mind that he might jump out. He never has before," Siau said. "I jumped back in the truck, put it in gear and drove off. And I just thought he was in the back asleep."

Siau made it all the way to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 170 miles to the north, before he realized Rambo was gone. But he knew if he turned around, his schedule would be thrown off and his job jeopardized.

Siau was heartbroken. In October, Rambo's father, Ollie, who also accompanied Siau on trips, was run over and killed. Siau was so distraught he took six months off work, and the thought of losing another dog was too much to bear.

Siau said he was "freaking out" as he tried to determine where Rambo was lost. He finally concluded the puppy must have gotten out in Missouri.

Siau began calling authorities. By Sunday morning, he had learned Hannibal had jurisdiction over the rest area. Hannibal animal control officer Tim Ledbetter was sent to the site.

Sure enough, little Rambo was there, sitting patiently.

But he might not have been there much longer. Ledbetter said a family that had stopped at the rest area was just about to adopt the apparently lost puppy.

"In about 60 seconds, he would have been gone," Ledbetter said.

Siau was in Hannibal Tuesday to pick up his buddy and thank those at the animal shelter who found Rambo and took care of him.

When a shelter worker brought the dog out for the reunion, Rambo heard Siau call his name and began to whimper, tremble and squirm. Once in Siau's arms, Rambo climbed up his shoulder and began kissing the back of his neck.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Scientists excited about Iowa mammoth discovery

OSKALOOSA, Iowa (AP)—An unusual discovery of mammoth bones on a rural Oskaloosa farm has experts studying prehistoric life excited about scientific discoveries that may lie with the massive beast. The find is rare because it appears to include much of the animal's skeleton undisturbed. That allows scientists to gather pollen and other plant evidence at the dig site that could reveal details about Iowa's environment more than 12,000 years ago. Scientists from the University of Iowa plan to scan the area with ground penetrating radar on Friday to see if they can determine how much of the mammoth remains underground. Excavation will continue throughout the summer. Bones were first found two years ago by the landowner.

Laptop snaps thief's photo, leading to his arrest

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—Police in Michigan say a stolen laptop took a picture of the thief and sent it to a security website, leading to his arrest. The computer's owner, Logan Chadde, installed Orbicule security software before a weekend break-in at his home in Ann Arbor. Chadde told AnnArbor.com on Monday the program captured the thief using Facebook and talking with another person about how he was going to sell the stolen laptop. Chadde sent the information to police, who arrested a 19-year-old man. Police Lt Renee Bush says officers knew the suspect from an earlier encounter.

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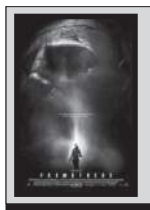
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday thru Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
The third entry in the Madagascar franchise finds the tightknit group of animals joining a traveling circus in order to get back home. Noah Baumbach provides the script, with Eric Darnell handling director duties. Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Sacha Baron Cohen reprise the voice roles, with Frances McDormand stepping in as the villain.



Prometheus

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday thru Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30	

Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender
Science Fiction • Rated R

Synopsis
Director Ridley Scott steps back into sci-fi territory with this tale that takes its cues from the Alien films — which it was originally supposed to tie in to before growing into its own mythology during pre-production. Jon Spaihts and Damon Lindelof provide the script, while The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo's Noomi Rapace and Michael Fassbender head up the cast, which also includes Charlize Theron, Ben Foster, and Idris Elba.

Snow White and The Huntsman

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday thru Thursday	1:05	4:05	7:05	

Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Men In Black 3

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Sunday thru Thursday	1:20	4:20	7:20	

Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Battleship

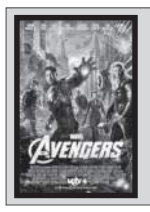
Friday		4:00	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:50
Sunday thru Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch
Science fiction, War • Rated PG 13

The Dictator

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday thru Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

Sacha Baron Cohen, Anna Faris
Comedy • Rated R



Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday thru Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

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Life & Style

Ray Bradbury, author of 'Fahrenheit 451,' dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ray Bradbury imagined the future, and didn't always like what he saw.

In his books, the science fiction-fantasy master conjured a dark, depressing future where the government used fire departments to burn books in order to hold its people in ignorance and where racial hatred was so pervasive that some people left Earth for other planets.

At the same time, his work, just like the author himself, could also be joyful, whimsical and nostalgic, as when he was describing the magic of a Midwestern summer or the innocence and fearlessness of a boy who befriends a houseful of ghosts.

Bradbury, who died Tuesday at age 91, said often that all of his stories, no matter how fantastic or frightening they might be, were metaphors for everyday life and everything it entailed. And they all came from his childhood.

"The great thing about my life is that everything I've done is a result of what I was when I was 12 or 13," he said in 1982.

For more than 70 years, Bradbury spun tales that appeared in books and magazines, in the movie theater and on the television screen, firing the imaginations of generations of children, college kids and grown-ups across the world. Years later, the sheer volume and quality of his work would surprise even him.

"I sometimes get up at night when I can't sleep and walk down into my library and open one of my books and read a paragraph and say: `My God, did I write that? Did I write that?' Because it's still a surprise," he said in 2000.

In many ways, he was always that 12-year-old boy who was inspired to become a writer after a chance meeting with a carnival magician called Mr. Electrico who, to Bradbury's delight, tapped him with his sword and said: "Live forever!"

AP

This Jan. 29, 1997 file photo shows author Ray Bradbury at a signing for his book "Quicker Than The Eye" in Cupertino, Calif.

"I decided that was the greatest idea I had ever heard," Bradbury said later. "I started writing every day. I never stopped."

Many of his stories were fueled by the nightmares he suffered as a child growing up poor in the Midwest during the Great Depression. At the same time, though, they were tempered by the joy he found upon arriving with his family in glitzy Los Angeles in 1934.

Decades later he would still boast of hanging out at film studios and cajoling actors to sign autographs and pose for photos, even once getting 1930s movie queen Jean Harlow to kiss him on the cheek.

"What I have always been is a hybrid author," Bradbury explained in 2009. "I am completely in love with movies, and I am completely in love with theater, and I am completely in love with libraries."

Much of Hollywood was also in love with him, and tributes from actors, directors and other celebrities poured in upon news of his death.

"He was my muse for the better part of my sci-fi career," director Steven Spielberg said in a statement. "He lives on through his legion of fans. In the world of science fiction and fantasy and imagination, he is immortal."

Although he was slowed by a stroke in 1999 that forced him to use a wheelchair, Bradbury kept up socially and professionally.

As he had done for decades, he continued to write every day, trying to produce at least 1,000 words, in the basement of his home in the Cheviot Hills section of Los Angeles and to make frequent visits to book fairs, libraries and schools.

His writings ranged from horror and mystery to humor and sympathetic stories about the Irish, blacks and Mexican-Americans.

Bradbury also scripted John Huston's 1956 film version of "Moby Dick" and wrote for "The Twilight Zone" and other television programs, including "The Ray Bradbury Theater," for which he adapted dozens of his works.

He rose to literary fame in 1950 with "The Martian Chronicles," a series of intertwined stories that satirized capitalism, racism and superpower tensions as it portrayed Earth colonizers destroying an idyllic Martian civilization.

Actress Amanda Bynes pleads not guilty in DUI case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for actress Amanda Bynes has entered a not-guilty plea on her behalf in a driving under the influence case.

The actress did not attend the arraignment Wednesday in Beverly Hills. She was charged Tuesday, roughly two months after she was arrested after grazing a sheriff's patrol car.

The actress also directed a Twitter message at President Barack Obama asking him to fire the deputy who arrested her, writing she doesn't drink. After her arrest, the 26-year-old refused a test that would have determined if she was drunk or used drugs.

District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison says a pretrial hearing is set for July 18.

Bynes is known for her role in the WB's "What I Like About You."

Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth are engaged

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—It turns out "The Last Song" was only the beginning for Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth.

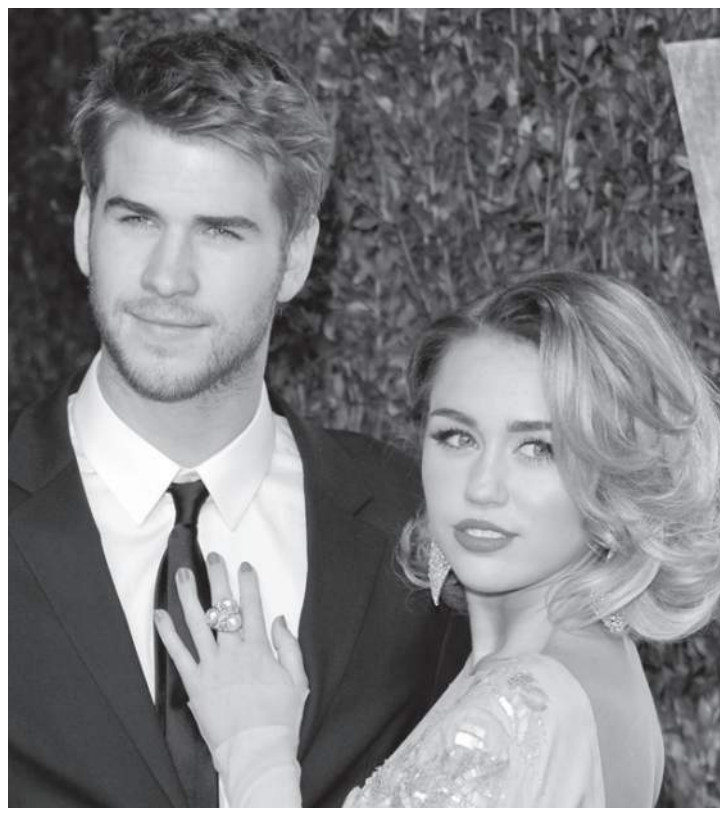
The couple who met on the set of that movie in 2009 announced their engagement Wednesday morning. Publicist Jeff Raymond confirms a People Magazine report of the news.

Hemsworth, the 22-year-old Australian star of "The Hunger Games," and Cyrus, the 19-year-old "Hannah Montana" star and singer, were engaged on May 31. Hemsworth proposed with a 3.5-carat diamond ring, People reports.

"I'm so happy to be engaged and look forward to a life of happiness with Liam," Cyrus told People.

The magazine report also said Cyrus is recording a new album while Hemsworth is scheduled to shoot two movies before tackling "The Hunger Games" sequel.

A message left with the publicist of Cyrus' father, Billy Ray, was not immediately returned.



AP

This Feb. 26, 2012 file photo shows Miley Cyrus, right, and Liam Hemsworth at the Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, Calif.

Man's motorcycle madness is driving wife over the edge

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Chris," wanted a motorcycle for seven years. Last year I finally gave in, with the stipulation that he take a safety course and buy a good helmet and riding gear.

Two months later, Chris was in a crash and suffered several broken bones and a concussion. The hospital bill was more than $60,000. His accident was a reality check for me. Ever since, I have been petrified of losing him. Every time Chris rides I worry, pray and often cry until he returns or calls to say he's OK.

I have begged him to get rid of the bike. The stress is taking a toll on me physically and emotionally and creating tension between us. I'm afraid it would be selfish to insist he get rid of something he loves; on the other hand, I feel Chris is selfish for not taking my feelings into consideration. I'm torn between wanting him safe and wanting him to be happy. What should I do?

STRESSED OUT IN PHILLY

DEAR STRESSED OUT: If his close call wasn't enough to convince your husband to rethink his motorcycle riding, and your begging and obvious distress haven't dissuaded him, accept that short of hog-tying Chris, you can't stop him from riding.

You can, however, protect yourself from some of the fallout that might result from another accident. Tell Chris that if his heart is set on riding, you want him to buy a life insurance policy and sign an organ donor card, because healthy young men on motorcycles are the most desired organ donors -- a fact shared with me by a former executive director of an organ donation registry. That way you will be provided for in case of a tragedy—and it will ensure that part of him lives on when he is removed from life support.

It's also important that you find ways to lessen your stress. So start making time for activities you can enjoy while you're on your own. It'll give you less time to worry and something else on which to concentrate.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who last year discovered I was gay. I was married with children. When I told my husband I was gay, he embraced and supported me with a great deal of love. We told our children in an open and honest way, and they, too, have supported me. I have also told a select group of friends whom I felt I could trust.

One of these friends is the mother of one of my son's classmates. Her daughter asked her mom why I was always with a woman and her response was, "It's her girlfriend." Her daughter asked more questions, so her mother told her I was gay -- outing me to her daughter and my son's classmates! I am beyond hurt, and I am considering dissolving my friendship with this person. I am unsure what I should say or do. Can you help?

CONFUSED IN SEATTLE

DEAR CONFUSED: Once a "secret" is shared, there is no guarantee that it will remain a secret. When you began coming out to your friends, you revealed who you are. You CAN'T be both in and out of the closet.

Please forgive your friend. Her daughter asked honest questions and was given honest answers. That is a good thing. There are worse things than being known as gay in Seattle—such as being gay in a place that's less accepting. So start celebrating who you are and the rest will fall into place.

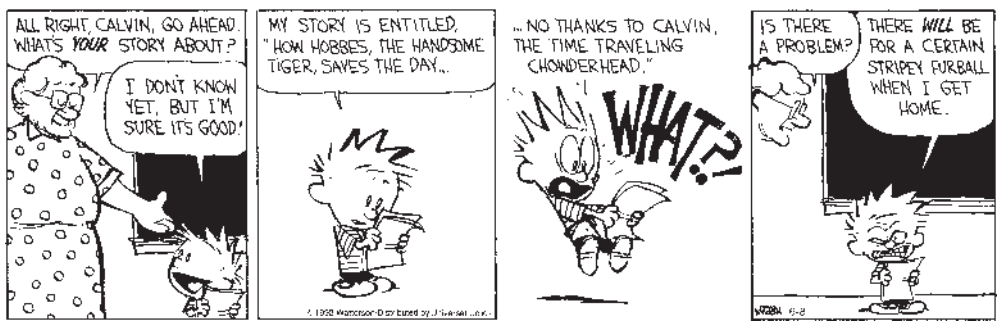
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ALL RIGHT, CALVIN, GO AHEAD. WHAT'S YOUR STORY ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW YET, BUT I'M SURE IT'S GOOD!
MY STORY IS ENTITLED, "HOW HOBBES, THE HANDSOME TIGER, SAVES THE DAY...
...NO THANKS TO CALVIN, THE TIME TRAVELING CHOWDERHEAD."
WHAT?!
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
THERE WILL BE FOR A CERTAIN STRIPEY FURBALL WHEN I GET HOME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT'S THAT, LIZ? YOU'RE ASKING ME IF I CAN DANCE?
WAIT, DO YOU SMELL SOMETHING BURNING?
OH, YEAH, MY SHOES ARE ON FIRE!
IN YOUR DREAMS
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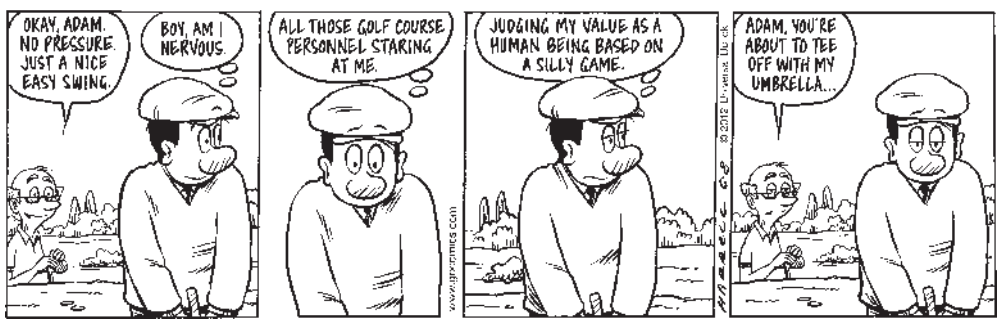
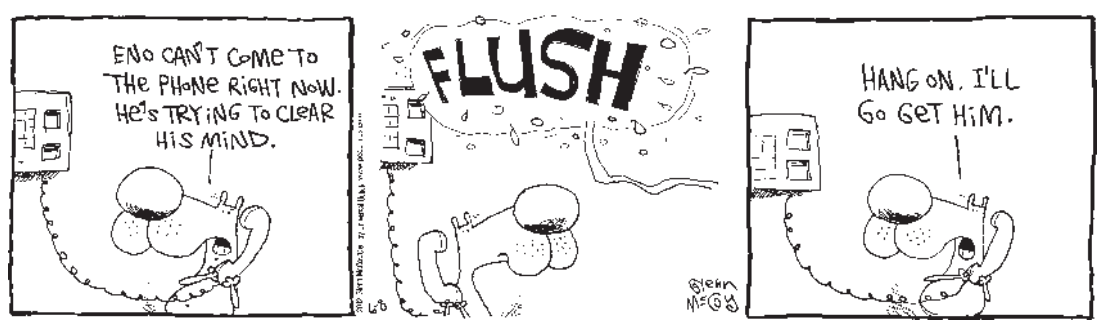
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, ADAM. NO PRESSURE. JUST A NICE EASY SWING.
BOY, AM I NERVOUS.
ALL THOSE GOLF COURSE PERSONNEL STARING AT ME.
JUDGING MY VALUE AS A HUMAN BEING BASED ON A SILLY GAME.
ADAM, YOU'RE ABOUT TO TEE OFF WITH MY UMBRELLA...

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

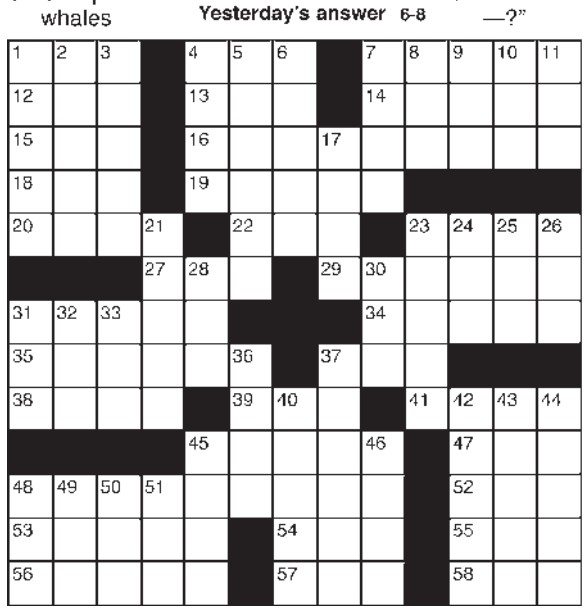
ACROSS
1 Existed
4 Rx watchdog org.
7 Type measures
12 "Wha'd'ja say?"
13 Bobby of hockey
14 Battery terminal
15 401(k) alternative
16 Net game
18 Distant
19 Soup eater's need
20 Buy, fix and resell quickly
22 Baseball stat
23 Scored 100 on
27 "Monty Python" opener
29 Wisconsin, the — State
31 Cheer up
34 Quotidian
35 "Saturday Night Fever" director John
37 Group of whales
38 Physique
39 Rhyming tribute
41 Rescue
45 Rushmore or Suribachi
47 — de mer
48 "Day After Day" band
52 Antiquated
53 Civil War victors
54 Rage
55 Fish eggs
56 Ship's rear
57 Aye canceler
58 Mess up

DOWN
1 Slight inhalation
2 Of hearing
3 Lewis who worked with Lamb Chop
4 Watch chains
5 Curtains
6 Fervor
7 Analgesic target
8 Hostel
9 Barracks bed
10 Too much trouble
11 Yen fraction
17 Biblical kingdom
21 Concise and substantive
23 Second president
24 Hollywood trickery, for short
25 Moray, e.g.
26 Parched
28 Afternoon affair
30 Oklahoma city
31 Recede
32 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
33 Toss in
36 Apollo's destination
37 Groups of species
40 Started dining
42 Dino sang about it
43 It's mostly discretion
44 Presbyter
45 Lake Wobegon's st.
46 Low card
48 Clear the tables
49 Pismire
50 Conk out
51 "What —?"

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	C	■	S	P	A	R	■	C	H	T	
I	D	O	■	H	E	B	E	■	A	L	A	R
C	O	N	J	U	R	E	D	■	R	I	L	E
■	■	S	I	T	■	L	I	F	T	O	F	F
M	U	U	M	U	U	■	D	O	H	■	■	■
E	L	M	■	P	S	I	■	R	E	C	T	O
A	N	E	W	■	A	L	T	■	N	O	U	N
N	A	D	I	R	■	K	I	D	■	N	B	C
■	■	■	S	O	T	■	C	O	F	F	E	E
G	A	T	E	W	A	Y	■	C	L	U	■	■
A	G	O	G	■	C	O	N	I	U	S	E	D
M	E	N	U	■	O	R	E	O	■	E	V	A
E	D	G	Y	■	S	E	E	R	■	D	E	N

Yesterday's answer 6-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kanye West, 35; Juliana Margulies, 46; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 54; Joan Rivers, 79.

Happy Birthday: Make alterations you've been contemplating for a while. Go back to school, take a trip or make a geographical move—anything that points you in a new direction, awakens you and makes you want to live life. Love and romance are in the stars, and partnerships need to be addressed. Your numbers are 5, 8, 17, 29, 35, 41, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): The more you help others, the better you will feel. Your gestures will be rewarded handsomely. You will attract people who are interested in getting to know you. A connection has the potential to turn into a moneymaking venture. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put your emotions aside and get down to business. Avoid being inflexible if you want to progress. Weigh the pros and cons and you will come up with a plan that benefits everyone. A little goes a long way, if you compromise. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Send out your resume and make cold calls. If you are happy with your current professional position, do something to escalate your chance to advance. A responsible attitude and work ethic will pay off. Don't let someone's poor judgment bring you down. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Experience something unique. Take part in an event or activity that will teach you something new. Traveling, communicating and creating a plan that allows you to use your skills in unusual ways will lead to greater demand and success. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will make progress if you work in a group setting. Volunteering your services will help create demand for what you have to offer. Donate your time, not your money, and you will gain respect. A change in location will do you good. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't get confused. Size up your situation and do what works best for you. Don't let anyone lead you astray or put demands on you. Doors will open if you are straightforward regarding what you have to offer. Protect your reputation. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll attract attention and partners. You will grasp information quickly and use it strategically. Sticking to a budget will protect you from setbacks. Love is in the stars, and a change of pace will do you good. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let emotion interfere with the choices you make. Be realistic about money matters and investments, and be creative regarding your living space and emotional needs. Innovation and a good plan will lead to something tangible. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick to the truth. Embellishment will not go over well with the people you care about the most. Changes at home should be welcome, and nurturing your personal relationships is a must. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Fond memories will lead you back in time and encourage you to pick up old hobbies, as well as old friends. An important contract or money matter will play out in your favor. Responsible action will pay off. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Use experience to figure out what to do next. Don't miss out on a chance to be with someone you love because you are afraid of rejection. Share your thoughts and feelings, and you will know what to do next. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let challenges stifle your dreams. Avoid opposition and interference by allowing others to do as they please. Jealousy will stand in your way, and anger will make you look bad. Put on a happy face and send out positive vibes. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious, bright and articulate. You are creative, innovative and interesting.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9				
3		2				7		5
			5	4	2			
		5				9		
2		8		1		4		3
		7				1		
			6	3	7			
4		3				8		6
				2				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	1	4	8	9	3	6	2
2	4	9	6	3	5	7	8	1
6	8	3	1	7	2	4	5	9
7	2	5	9	1	8	6	4	3
9	6	8	5	4	3	2	1	7
3	1	4	2	6	7	8	9	5
4	3	7	8	9	1	5	2	6
1	5	6	7	2	4	9	3	8
8	9	2	3	5	6	1	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IT'S TIME TO LANDSCAPE **Solution: 7 letters**

S	F	S	P	R	I	N	G	D	R	A	K	I	N	G
S	U	S	B	O	T	R	E	E	S	T	O	N	E	A
T	R	N	H	U	I	B	H	L	E	V	A	R	G	R
C	N	S	L	T	R	T	Ⓓ	Ⓛ	Ⓘ	Ⓦ	F	N	S	D
E	I	L	R	I	A	H	A	S	I	E	I	L	K	E
J	T	A	S	E	G	P	S	P	R	T	O	E	C	N
O	U	T	W	L	W	H	F	U	N	O	T	N	E	I
R	R	E	A	E	E	O	T	A	P	C	B	E	D	N
P	E	W	E	D	U	A	L	C	I	C	T	R	R	G
O	N	D	G	N	R	P	V	F	L	Y	S	R	A	R
N	S	E	T	E	S	I	S	E	A	I	E	P	I	E
D	S	A	P	N	N	L	A	R	S	L	P	I	N	M
S	I	M	A	E	O	N	D	N	G	E	L	L	A	M
N	E	R	S	O	I	L	G	R	A	S	S	E	G	U
T	T	E	T	A	E	R	C	L	B	U	S	H	E	S

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Appeal, Arbors, Bushes, Clean, Clip, Create, Debris, Decks, Drainage, Fall, Flowers, Fountain, Furniture, Gardening, Grass, Gravel, Hedges, Lawn, Leaves, Litter, Paths, Patio, Pest, Pile, Ponds, Pools, Projects, Raking, Shrubs, Slate, Soil, Spring, Stone, Summer, Sunlight, Temperature, Tools, Transplanting, Trees, Trim, Vines, Weather, Weeds, Wild, Yard

Yesterday's Answer: Together

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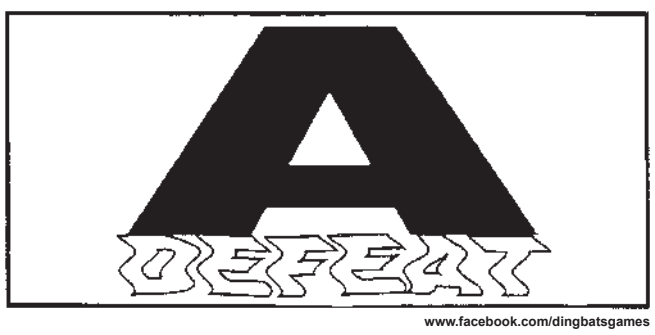

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Thunder headed to NBA finals, beat Spurs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—After years of nagging Oklahoma City Thunder coach Scott Brooks not to take him out of games, Kevin Durant finally got his wish.

And now, he's one big step closer to making his basketball dreams come true.

Durant had 34 points and 14 rebounds while playing all of regulation for the first time all season, and the Thunder claimed a spot in the NBA finals by beating the San Antonio Spurs 107-99 on Wednesday night.

Russell Westbrook added 25 points for the Thunder, who trailed Game 6 of the Western Conference finals by 18 in the first half and erased a 15-point halftime deficit before pulling ahead to stay in the fourth.

"It's an amazing moment for him to play like this in this moment, in this setting, and I wasn't going to take him out," Brooks said.

"I was not going to take him out. I don't care how many times he looked at me fatigued. He has enough, and I think all of our guys have enough to play. You just have to fight through it."

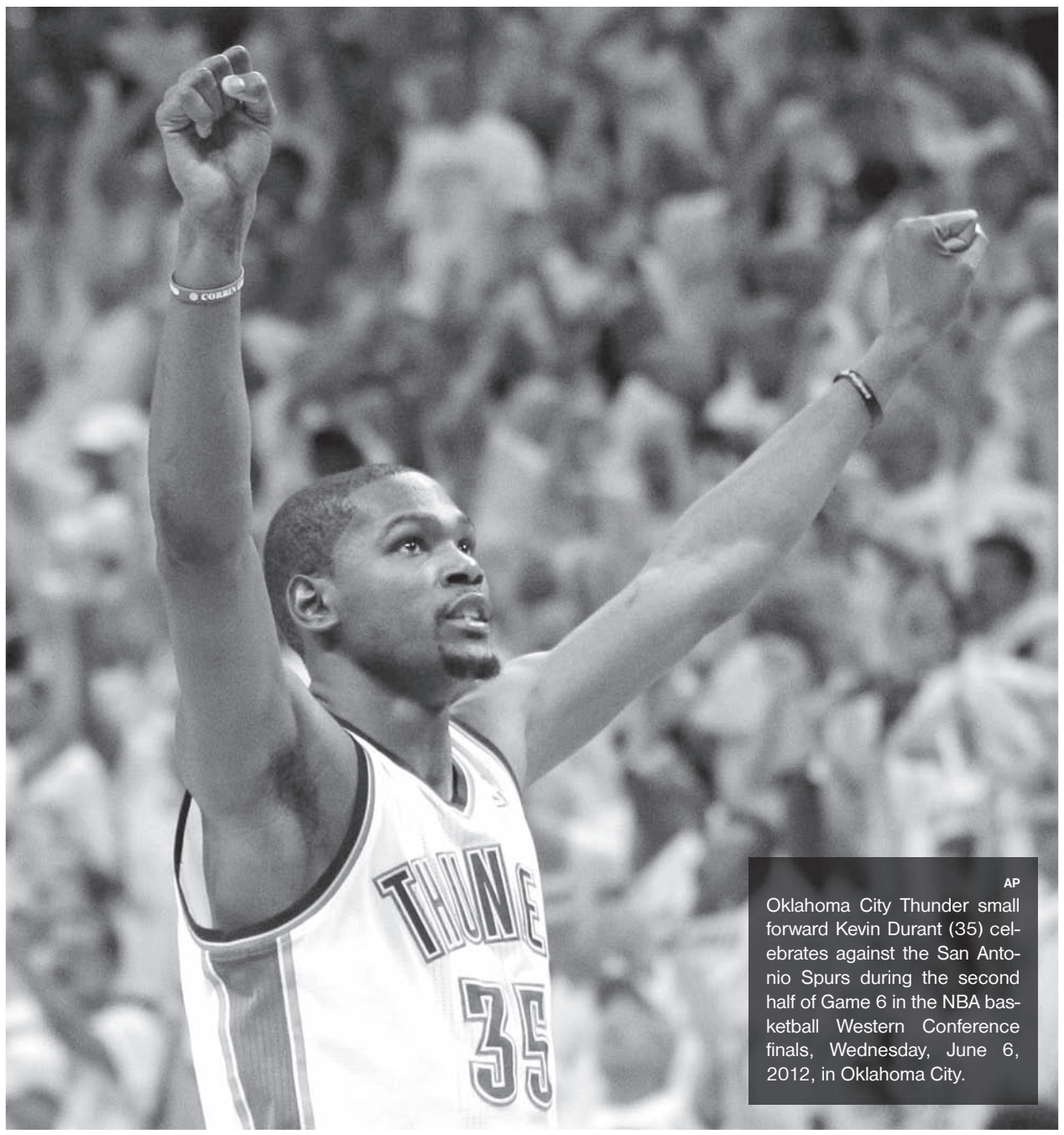
Durant grabbed the final rebound, dribbled the ball across halfcourt and raised his right fist to celebrate with a sold-out crowd wearing free white T-shirts. The franchise will play for the NBA title for the first time since 1996, before relocating from Seattle.

Even before the final buzzer, Durant indulged by hugging his mother and brother seated courtside after a foul was called with 14 seconds remaining.

"I never want to take those moments for granted," Durant said. "I know it's just one step closer to our dreams, but it felt good."

Tony Parker had 29 points and 12 assists for San Antonio, but only eight of the points and two assists came in the second half.

The Thunder outscored the Spurs 59-36 after falling behind 63-48 at halftime and getting a challenge from Brooks that he said had "nothing to do" with committing eight turnovers against only six assists while allowing San Antonio to shoot 9 for 15 on 3-pointers.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder small forward Kevin Durant (35) celebrates against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half of Game 6 in the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Wednesday, June 6, 2012, in Oklahoma City.

"It just had everything to do with who we are as men, who we are as a team, the type of spirit that we want to show every time down the court," Brooks said. "It was all about that, about body language, about being a family. I thought our guys did that the first possession of that second half and they did not look back."

Tim Duncan chipped in 25 points and 14 rebounds, and Stephen Jackson scored 23 as San Antonio lost its fourth straight after becoming only the fourth team in NBA history to win 20 games in a row.

In the process, the Spurs pushed past Oklahoma City for the best record in the league and home-court advantage in the playoffs. But the Thunder took that back by winning Game 5 in San Antonio on Monday night.

"There's not much to complain about," San Antonio's Manu Ginobili said. "We had a great run. We just couldn't beat these guys."

The Thunder, only three years removed from a 3-29 start that had them on pace for the worst record in NBA history, went through the only three West teams to reach the finals since 1998—Dallas, the Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio—to earn their shot at the title.

Game 1 of the NBA finals will be Tuesday night in Oklahoma City against either Boston or Miami. The Celtics lead that series 3-2 and can earn a trip to the finals with a win at home in Game 6 on Thursday night.

The Thunder took the lead for good early in the fourth quarter, getting nine of their first 13 points on free throws as the fouls started to pile up for San Antonio—six on the defensive end and three on the offensive end in the first 7 minutes.

Even Durant drew what he thought was his first charge of the season, stepping in front of Ginobili.

Derek Fisher and James Harden hit 3-pointers in a three-possession span to increase the lead to 99-93 with 3:13 remaining. Jackson, who had made his previous six 3-pointers, and Parker both missed 3s that would have gotten the Spurs within 103-102 in the final minute.

The Spurs put up quite a fight, at least for the first half.

Parker, who had been largely bottled up ever since the Thunder put 6-foot-7 defensive specialist Thabo Sefolosha on him in Game 3, had a hand in the Spurs' first 12 baskets, making seven on his own and assisting on the other five.

Kawhi Leonard and Jackson followed his three-point play by nailing back-to-back 3-pointers for a 34-16 advantage in the final 2 minutes of the first quarter.

"I told the coaches that I could go all night, I could go 48, and I didn't think they would let me do it," Durant said. "But they kept me in and I just tried to give my team a spark."

The Thunder stormed back with an 11-2 run to start the third quarter and eventually pulled ahead after Durant's 3-pointer from the top of the key made it 79-77 with 1:41 left in the period.

San Antonio missed nine of 11 3-pointers in the second half.

"The third quarter, it was like playing in mud," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "So, that was our downfall as much as anything."

James' season on the brink in Boston—again

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James appreciates the irony.

Matching up against the Boston Celtics, on the road, with the season on the line. He faced it in 2008 and lost. He faced it in 2010 and lost, removing his Cleveland Cavaliers jersey for the final time as he left the floor that night.

And now in a championship-or-bust season for the Miami Heat, James heads back to Boston for another win-or-else game.

"It is fitting," James said.

The Celtics lead the Heat 3-2 in the Eastern Conference finals, and on Thursday night will look to clinch a third trip in five years to the NBA finals. If they succeed in Game 6—or Game 7, if it comes to that—all three of those most recent Boston trips to the title round would come at James' expense.

His first five games at Boston resulted in three wins. His 19 games there since have also resulted in three wins.

No team, maybe no other building, has befuddled James as much as the Celtics and the arena they call home. He's had a 45-point effort there in a loss, a 42-point effort there in a loss, a 27-point, 19-rebound, 10-assist effort there in a loss. Another loss on Thursday, and his ninth season will end as the previous eight did—without a championship.

"I know how much pain this team has given me over the years," James said. "So I guess it's only right that we would be going up there in an elimination game. In order for us to keep our season going, we've got to win in their building. So that's what it's about."

It's no secret that the expectation—both internally and externally—for the Heat is to win championships. That's what James famously vowed to get when he came to Miami in July 2010, and after losing in last season's finals to Dallas, it's been the only goal for the Heat in what the team has steadfastly referred to as a no-excuse season.

James won his third MVP award this season. He's averaging 29.9 points in the playoffs, six points better than his pace from a year ago and one-tenth of a point away from Kobe Bryant for the league's postseason lead in that department. And if Miami loses on Thursday night, the Heat season—and James'—will go down in most circles as a failure.

"We have to do this together," Heat forward Chris Bosh said. "He's going to do what he's supposed to do, and we're going to do what we're supposed to do. We're going to do it together. We live and die together. You can't just single him out. People have to stop doing that. It's a team sport. If he performs, he's going to perform, and he's going to do his job."

Even with the Heat down in the series after a 94-90 home loss the previous night, Wednesday's practice in Miami did not have a funereal mood.

James was chatting and laughing as he shot free throws with some teammates toward the end of the workout, not far from where Heat President Pat Riley sat at his customary table to watch the proceedings. Mike Miller and Udonis Haslem teased each other about how much the other read, or didn't read, while enrolled at Florida. Mario Chalmers and assistant coach David Fizdale were talking about nuances of Boston guard Ray Allen's game.

"I think we're all disciplined enough to compartmentalize and focus on the challenge that we have ahead of us," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It never is easy on your journey to try to be an NBA champion. You'll always have these tough moments where you have to come together and go through that moment together. You can't skip it. There isn't an easy way."

There usually isn't an easy way against Boston, which is why this core of James, Bosh and Dwyane Wade came together in the first place. James wanted to increase his odds of winning a championship. Bosh wanted to get in the mix for one. When the Heat lost a first-round series to Boston in 2010, Wade vowed that Miami would get back to title-contending or he would go elsewhere.

"We got together, we want to compete for a championship, we want to win a championship every year," Wade said. "To us, it's not about outside expectations. It's our own expectations. You think if we lose, you guys are hurt by it? No. We are hurt by it.

"This is what we love to do," Wade added. "This is what our families love us to do. It's what we work all year for. We put a lot into it, obviously, as well as the other teams in the NBA. This is our job. So we're going to try to go out there and do our job and try to get a win."

That burden will largely fall on James, of course.

"No one said it was going to be easy," James said. "I'm looking forward to the challenge, me personally. I'm looking forward to it more than probably anyone on the team. So I'm going to lead these guys in the right direction, and hopefully it results in us winning."

Otherwise, it'll be another long summer.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself to try to come through for our team," James said. "(Tuesday) night I felt like I could have made a couple more plays, and I didn't. But at the end of the day, if you play hard, you go out there and lay it on the line, the numbers will take care of itself. And you can be happy with it."

Nadal improves to 50-1 at French Open; Ferrer next

PARIS (AP)—It was about time Rafael Nadal faced some sort of test at the French Open.

Not that this one lasted all that long or was all that taxing.

Still, after dropping a total of 19 games through his first four matches—the fewest at Roland Garros in 30 years—Nadal finally found himself in an even-as-can-be set at the outset of his quarterfinal against 12th-seeded Nicolas Almagro.

While Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer have been forced to come back from two-set deficits in Paris, this qualified as a tight spot for Nadal. They went to a tiebreaker, and when Almagro's backhand return of a 121 mph serve landed out to cede the set, Nadal leaned forward and yelled, "Come on!"

Maybe it signaled excitement. Perhaps relief. This much was clear, in case anyone harbored any doubt: Nadal can summon his best play when he needs it. Moving closer to a record seventh French Open championship, Nadal reached the semifinals by beating Almagro 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-3 to improve to 50-1 at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament.

"I played well. I applied my strategy. I tried to do my best," Almagro said. "But he was at such a high level."

As he always is at Roland Garros. This year, though, Nadal's level has been even higher than usual.

Not only has he won all 15 sets he's played, but get this: Nadal has won 60 of his 61 service games so far, 54 in a row since getting broken in the second set of his first-round victory over Simone Bolelli of Italy. He's saved 16 of 17 break points, including going 4 for 4 against Almagro.

"If I'd not lost any set and not lost my serve, it would have been a miracle," the second-seeded Nadal said. "It's just impossible to achieve that."

The next player who will try to stop him is No. 6 David Ferrer, who, like Nadal and Almagro, is from Spain. Ferrer reached his third major semifinal, but first at Roland Garros, by eliminating No. 4 Andy Murray 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-2 in a match interrupted by a half-hour rain delay early in the third set.

Ferrer recalled watching on TV when countrymen Sergi Bruguera, Juan Carlos Ferrero and Carlos Moya won French Open trophies.

"This tournament, I think, is very special for all the Spanish players—and also for me," Ferrer said.

Would be even better, of course, if he can get past his pal Nadal, who has won 15 of their 19 career meetings.

"Winning a match against Rafa is almost impossible," Ferrer acknowledged. "He is in such good shape."

The other men's semifinal Friday will be No. 1-ranked Djokovic against No. 3 Federer. Djokovic is bidding to become the first man to win four consecutive major titles since Rod Laver 43 years ago. Federer wants to add to his record 16 Grand Slam titles and end a drought of more than two years without one.

AP

Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates winning his quarter final match against compatriot Nicolas Almagro at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday June 6, 2012.

Ferrer and Federer are both 30—the last two of the record 37 thirtysomethings who were in the draw—and it's the first time two French Open semifinalists were at least that old since Laver and Ken Rosewall in 1969. It hasn't happened at any Grand Slam tournament since Andre Agassi and Wayne Ferreira were in the final four at the 2003 Australian Open.

Against Murray, Ferrer was the picture of perpetual motion, chasing down shots to extend points time after time.

"He is so solid, so consistent," Murray said, "that if you're not converting your opportunities, it turns to many long games, and then the pressure can build on your serve."

He was speaking about Ferrer, but might as well have been discussing Nadal.

For that 62-minute first set against Almagro, Nadal could have been forgiven for thinking he was looking into a mirror, facing a right-handed version of himself. Almagro hit the ball as hard as Nadal does, with as much spin, and covered the same amount of ground, getting nearly everything back.

Both took big cuts at the ball and set up way behind the baseline, engaging in exchanges that lasted 10 or 15 strokes.

With Almagro ahead 5-4, and Nadal serving at 15-love, a 19-shot point ended with Nadal pushing a forehand long. That meant Almagro was three points from taking the set. But Nadal took the next three points, including a pair of 118 mph service winners. In the tiebreaker, Nadal pulled ahead 5-1, before dropping three points in a row.

This, then, would be the key moment. Nadal went ahead 6-4 with a cross-court backhand that forced an error, then closed the set with the service winner that he greeted with a shout.

"His serve was really good today," Almagro said. "At the important moments, he served better than (he did) the rest of the match."

In the women's semifinals Thursday, three-time major champion Maria Sharapova faces No. 4 Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic in a rematch of last year's Wimbledon final won by Kvitova, while U.S. Open champion Samantha Stosur of Australia meets No. 21 Sara Errani of Italy.

Sharapova, who is trying to complete a career Grand Slam, beat No. 23 Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 6-2, 6-3 Wednesday, and Kvitova edged 142nd-ranked qualifier Yaroslava Shvedova 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

"What girl doesn't like Paris? Great shopping, great everything. I mean, great food, great people and culture. I absolutely love it here," Sharapova said. "The more I come, the more I shop, and the thinner the wallet gets. But that's OK, right?"

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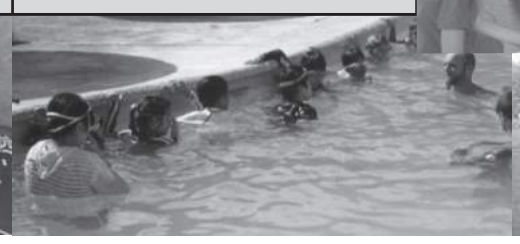
11:35 -12:35	Science	Art
12:35 -1:20	Lunch	Lunch
1:25 -2:10	Social Studies	Crafts
2:10 -2:25	Recess	Recess
2:25 -3:55	P.E./Health/ Field Trip/Art	Hiking/ Snorkeling
3:55 -4:00	Regroup	Regroup
4:00	Home	



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Gordon's hit leads Dodgers over Phillies, 6-5

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Dee Gordon hit a go-ahead single to back Chris Capuano as the Los Angeles Dodgers held on to beat the struggling Philadelphia Phillies 6-5 on Wednesday night.

Jimmy Rollins, Shane Victorino and Ty Wigginton homered for the Phillies, who have lost a season-worst five straight games.

Capuano (8-2) gave up four runs and four hits in five innings in one of his least effective starts this season. The lefty has a 2.82 ERA and is tied for the most wins in the majors.

Braves 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Randall Delgado pitched into the seventh inning and contributed his first RBI of the season before three relievers completed a two-hitter to help Atlanta beat Miami.

Brian McCann had three of the Braves' six hits and scored a run.

Delgado (4-5) allowed one run and had a career-high seven strikeouts. He won for the second time in his past nine starts. Braves relievers retired all eight batters they faced. Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 17th save in 18 chances.

Reds 5, Pirates 4

In Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto allowed six hits over 7 2-3 innings and Ryan Ludwick drove in three runs with a bases-loaded double, leading Cincinnati past Pittsburgh.

The Reds won for the 12th time in 17 games and extended their NL Central lead over Pittsburgh to three games. The second-place Pirates lost for only the third time in 11 games.

Cueto (6-3) left with a 5-1 lead in the eighth. Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run homer off Logan Ondrusek two pitches later.

Nationals 5, Mets 3

In Washington, Edwin Jackson pitched seven effective innings and Adam LaRoche hit a three-run homer as Washington beat the New York Mets.

Jackson (2-3) allowed three runs, two earned, and three hits to earn his first win since April 14 against Cincinnati. The right-hander was 0-3 with a 3.33 ERA in his previous eight starts.

Sean Burnett pitched a perfect eighth and Tyler Clippard worked the ninth for his fifth save in six chances, completing a three-hitter. New York has lost three straight.

Giants 6, Padres 5

In San Diego, Gregor Blanco homered and scored twice and Madison Bumgarner prevailed in a matchup of lefties in San Francisco's win.

The Giants have won eight of 10 overall and 14 of their last 19 against the Padres, who have the worst record in the majors.

Bumgarner (7-4) won his second straight start while Clayton Richard (2-7) lost for the second time in four starts. Sergio Romo pitched the ninth for his third save.

Cardinals 4, Astros 3

In Houston, Allen Craig and Daniel Descalso homered to back Adam Wainwright in St. Louis' victory.

Descalso's drive came in a three-run first inning and Craig connected in the third to make it 4-1. Craig also had an RBI single in the first.

Wainwright (5-6) yielded seven hits and three runs with eight strikeouts in 5 2-3 innings to improve to 5-0 in six starts at Minute Maid Park.

Brewers 8, Cubs 0

In Milwaukee, Zack Greinke had a season-high 12 strikeouts and Milwaukee rediscovered its offense against Chicago.

Greinke (7-2) extended his home winning streak to 15 straight decisions at Miller Park. He gave up two hits in seven innings, with two walks and a wild pitch.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 1

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt homered and drove in three runs while extending his hitting streak to 14 games and Wade Miley pitched eight sharp innings as the Arizona Diamondbacks rolled to a 6-1 win over Colorado.

The Diamondbacks beat up the Rockies in the middle game of the series, getting a season-high 17 hits Tuesday night. They kept swinging and connecting in the finale, scoring five runs the first three innings off Josh Outman (0-2) on their way to 11 more hits.

Indians 9, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Michael Brantley hit a three-run homer after a Detroit error kept a first-inning rally going, and Johnny Damon added a two-run single to help the Cleveland Indians to victory over the Tigers.

Casey Kotchman hit a two-run shot for the Indians, who improved to 5-0 against Detroit this season. Miguel Cabrera and Don Kelly hit solo homers for the Tigers.

Mariners 8, Angels 6

In Anaheim, Ichiro Suzuki homered and scored three times for Seattle, and Kyle Seager drove in four runs.

Michael Saunders added three hits to complete an impressive road trip. Saunders went 19 for 39 (.487) during Seattle's nine-game jaunt to Texas, Chicago and Anaheim, including five games with at least three hits. He had two homers and five RBIs while raising his batting average from .224 to .277.

Athletics 2, Rangers 0

In Oakland, Yoenis Cespedes went 3 for 3 and Bartolo Colon pitched eight sparkling innings, leading the Athletics to the victory.

Brandon Inge hit an RBI single in the second and Colon (5-6) won for the second time in his last nine outings to improve to 18-6 in 28 starts against Texas—his most wins against any opponent

The right-hander was backed by just enough run support in this outing after the A's were blanked his last time out at Kansas City on Friday—the third time Oakland hasn't scored a run in one of his games.

Yankees 4, Rays 1

In New York, Ivan Nova took a two-hitter into the ninth inning, Mark Teixiera and Robinson Cano homered as the Yankees beat the Rays for the second straight night.

Nick Swisher and Eric Chavez had RBI doubles in the eighth inning to help the Yankees win for the 10th time in 13 games and pass Tampa Bay in the tight AL East standings for the first time since April 23.

Blue Jays 4, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Brandon Morrow pitched a two-hitter for his third shutout of the season, and Jose Bautista and Rajai Davis homered for Toronto.

Morrow (7-3) allowed singles in the second and eighth to A.J. Pierzynski and retired 14 straight at one point. He gave up his only two walks in the ninth, to Adam Dunn and Alejandro De Aza, and struck out five, including Dayan Viciedo to end it.

Twins 4, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Nick Blackburn shook off a slow start and pitched five effective innings, helping the Twins pick up another win.

Justin Morneau hit a go-ahead, two-run single with two out in the fifth as Minnesota won for the fourth time in five games. Morneau, Ben Revere and Ryan Doumit each had two hits.

Orioles 2, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Wei-Yin Chen scattered seven hits over seven innings and the Orioles set a franchise record with their seventh straight victory in Boston.

The Orioles, who knocked Boston out of the postseason on the final night of the regular season last year, have won 12 of the past 15 meetings. They are 5-0 at Fenway Park this season.

Endy Chavez, who had three hits in a series-opening win Tuesday, drove in the go-ahead run with a grounder in the sixth. Boston has lost three straight for the first time since early May.

Chen (5-2) struck out four, walked none and stranded six runners. Jim Johnson got three outs for his 18th save.

Josh Beckett (4-6) was the tough-luck loser, allowing two runs and five hits in eight innings.

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San Roque ends streak, beats Wushin

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Roque prevailed in the battle of winless squads in Bracket B of the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League after slipping past Wushin Express, 74-65, in a delayed match last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

San Roque played catch-up after trailing early, 3-18, before finally overtaking the winded Wushin crew in the last 31 seconds of the third to get its first win in three games. Wushin absorbed its fourth defeat in a row, as it lost steam in the end after a good start.

The match, scheduled for 8pm, began at almost 9pm, as league officials and San Roque had to iron out problems on registration dues. When the game finally kicked off, Wushin, which spent more than an hour warming up, got up to a fiery start with Dick Tibayan drilling three early triples for their 18-3 lead.

However, San Roque settled down in the last five minutes of the opening canto to move within five, 15-20, entering the second period. San Roque continued its recovery in the next two quarters and finally caught up with Wushin, 52-52, after McLain Achas made a layup, 31.8 seconds left in that canto.

San Roque went on to drill two more baskets in the closing seconds of the third to grab the driver's seat, 56-52, entering the fourth canto. In the final period, San Roque stretched its lead to 10, 68-58, as Wushin was visibly tired and was held to only three field goals for more than eight minutes in the final frame.

Then Wushin made one final attempt to avoid a total collapse when it scored five straight points off George Villasan's triple and Ferdie Tobias' layup. San Roque's lead was sliced to five, 68-63, with still 1:38 left on the clock and Wushin had a chance to move closer with Tobias going for a pair of charities after getting a steal in the San Roque inbound play and drawing a foul on Michael Achas.

However, Tobias missed both free throws, while Angelo Fernando went 4-for-4 in his two trips at the foul line in the ensuing plays and McLain Achas made a layup to seal the come-from-behind win.

Fernando paced San Roque with 22 points, while Tibayan led Wushin with 17, but was held to only 2 markers in the second half.

Mawati 69, 8 Division 59

In Bracket A game, Mawati improved to a 2-0 record after beating 8 Division.

After leading by only a deuce at the break, 30-28, Mawati managed to widen the gap, 51-41, in the third period as it drew at least 4 points apiece from five different players.

Webster Gonfar was not among those who scored 4 points in Mawati's balance attack in the third, but drilled the team's first 10 points in the final canto to protect the double-digit lead.

Gonfar went on to top-score for Mawati with his 17, while Sam Avila and Francis Serrano also finished in twin digits with 14 and 13, respectively.

Daniel Dela Cruz had 16 for 8 Division, but was scoreless in the fourth canto and had only one field goal in the third. Jun Hernandez added 14 for 8 Division, which fell to 1-1 card.

First Game

Mawati 69 –Gonfar 17, Avila 14, Serrano 13, Enriquez 8, Tenepere 7, Ibanes 4, Reyes 4, Corotan 1.

8 Division 59 – Dela Cruz 16, Hernandez 14, Detera 11, Rivera 6, Alejandro 6, Baterina 4, Bernardo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-12, 30-28, 51-41, 69-59.

Second Game

San Roque 74 – Fernando 23, Mc. Achas 11, Odicta 10, Bautista 8, Salazar 5, Lagado 2, Mi. Achas 2, Hidalgo 2.

Wushin Express 65 – Tibayan 17, Villasan 16, Tobias 16, De Belen 9, De Jesus 3, Farinas 2, Ebuen 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-20, 33-36, 56-52, 74-65.

SAKOVICH

From Page 32

Games top athlete, and a University of Hawaii-Manoa mainstay.

"I was really impressed with Rezne's performance, he has come a long way while swimming for the University of Hawaii and he should do well in his final year of competition for UH-Manoa. Rezne is primarily a breaststroke and IMer for the UH team, but is also good all-around swimmer," said Sakovich, who is now coaching the Waiakea High School.

According to Sakovich, Wong held his own against over 100 swimmers from the Pacific, including those from the tough New Zealand and Australian delegations that won majority of the medals in the four-day event.

"Rezne swam his best times this past March in the collegiate conference swimming championships, helping his team to a third place conference finish. At the Oceania champs last week, he competed in six races and made it to the finals in all his event—a great accomplishment for any swimmer," the former SSC coach said.

Sakovich added that UH-Manoa assistant coach Jen Buffin was happy to see Rezne in Noumea as she was also the coach for the eight Hawaii swimmers competing for Hawaii," Sakovich said.

Meanwhile, Sakovich thanked the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation, Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center, NMASA, and individual sponsors who made Wong's trip to New Caledonia possible.

CNMI

From Page 32

pete against the host, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The strong-CNMI Team is composed of U18's Thea and Theecel Minor, Alina Ishikawa, Melody Johnson, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, Amami Sakano, and Jake Lee, U15's Christopher Cajigan, Seiya Eda, Moris Villanueva, Dylan Ackerman, Tommy Choi, Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy, Emily Jones, and Tammy Ackerman, and U12's Luther Lizama, Vincent Tudela, Robert Schorr, Michael Ren, Michael Jones, Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, Julia Ishikawa, Elizaveta Atalig, and Ami Tsukagoshi.

The Commonwealth bets will be battling for slots on the North Pacific Team that will challenge the West and East squads in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August and Race is confident his wards will get 11 of the 12 allowed berths for the CNMI.

"I think we'll get 11 or 12 of our 12 possible spots on the North Pacific Team. We are so strong in the U12, with Michael Ren and Luther Lizama in the boys and Carol Lee, Isabel Heras and Julia Ishikawa in the girls. Our U15 are the toughest in the Pacific, with Chris Cajigan playing inspired tennis and backed up by Tommy Choi, Seiya Eda, Moris Villanueva, and several other tough players. Mika Lopez should rule the girls U15 with Negahr Rastguiy close behind. Christian Miller will be top seed in the U18 along with Thea Minor. We have several other boys, particularly 2011 champ Rafael Jones, who ought to be at the top as well," the CNMI coach said.

"Almost every division will mainly be a dogfight between CNMI players. We're really looking at a couple of players from the other islands who are expected to be tough. Christian Penefiel from Guam in the boys U18 is very good and finished No. 2 last year. Abigail Gwewonyo from Palau also finished No. 2 in 2011. Because only two players in the U18 will go to Fiji, these are the players to watch. In the U15 and U12, we should finish 1-2 or 1-3 and get our best players in POJC," he added.

Besides the Top 2 in the boys and girls U18, POJC berths will also be given to the Top 4 finishers in both the boys and girls U12 and U15 age groups. Last year, the CNMI got 10 regular slots and one wild card entry.

Race said the CNMI's success in the NPQ for the past several years was due to the players' hard work and support from their families, coaches, and sponsors.

"Our players have been training hard to improve their games all year. They have had more tournaments played than almost any other players in the Pacific, outside of New Caledonia. Most of them are joining the final tune-up, Camp Courage, and will be training intensively every day until we depart," said Race, who will leave with his players this Sunday.

"We wouldn't have the best national junior tennis program in the Pacific without the dedication of the players, the sacrifices of the parents, the support of the sponsors, and the commitment of the coaches," he added.

The NPQ will run from June 11 to 15 at the Rick Ninete Tennis Centre in Tamuning.

SWEEPS

From Page 32

Gargallo and Lucelle Lampera, who defeated Jerry Hibi and Toshiko Obata, 21-19, 21-18. Next on the list were Hapi Gabriel and Hannai Choi, who topped Dick Guintu and Malou Malasarte, 21-15, 21-14.

Gabriel and Choi attempted for a second straight win last Sunday, but Ferdie Arago and Lani Bartolome frustrated them with a 21-15, 21-18 triumph.

The fourth and last sweep in the mixed doubles A belonged to Andreau Galvez and Angie Ito, who edged Rodwealth Espana and Shirley Kim, 21-18. 21-17.

In the mixed doubles B, four of the five matches played last Sunday were won after only two games. Oh Imbog and Toshiko Obata swept Celso Agui and Loyda Ito, 21-9, 21-7, and Jeff Riman and Annette Quiambao, 21-7, 21-13; Joel and Alma Ortega downed Agui and Ito, 22-20, 21-19; and Wowie Abuel ad Jane Tupas beat the Ortegas, 21-19, 21-14.

Jerry Tan and Shirley Kim won the lone three-game match in the mixed doubles B, defeating Roger Vales and Babes Cielo, 11-21, 21-18, 24-22.

The Ortegas also played in the mixed doubles C and needed three games to thwart Rommel Bartolome and Jane Tupas, 15-21, 21-14, 21-13. Bernard Aquino and Christina Ta also battled Bartolome and Tupas in an extended game with the first pair winning, 28-26, 20-22, 21-12.

The other game in the mixed doubles C had Ramir Belialba and Irish Pagarao prevailing over Son Jae Ok and Fen Luan Li, 23-21, 21-10.

In the women's C singles play, Midori Obi booked back-to-back wins last Sunday, thumping Lani Santos, 21-13, 21-10, and Rose Lazaro, 19-21, 21-11, 21-13. However, Pagarao broke Obi's streak with a 27-25, 25-23 victory, while Roma Barlao went 2-0 with her wins against Santos, 21-4, 21-9, and Pagarao, 21-13, 21-10.

Also nailing two victories last Sunday was Angie Ito, who showed no love lost for her mother, Loyda, 21-16, 21-17, before sweeping Malasarte, 21-16, 21-10.

In the men's B singles, all three matches ended after only two games with Oh, Espana, and Chris Hilaro on the winning end.

Meanwhile, eight of the nine matches in the singles last Saturday were decided after only two games, while in the mixed doubles A, Sam Jones and Loyda Ito and Galvez and Angie Ito went the distance before escaping past separate foes. In the mixed doubles C, five pairs swept their opponents.

BRADLEY

From Page 32

record, but the feeling in the Pacquiao camp that he is too slow and doesn't punch hard enough to make him a threat.

Bradley would like nothing better than to prove them wrong.

"He's going to respect me, believe it," Bradley said. "As soon as I tag him he's going to respect me."

Bradley fights for only the second time at 147 pounds, moving up to challenge Pacquiao for a piece of the welterweight title. He will make a minimum $5 million, but there will be even more lucrative fights in the future should he pull off an upset against the Filipino boxer/politician.

Oddsmakers make Pacquiao a 4-1 pick, and he's got some motivation of his own. He barely escaped with a decision in his last fight against Juan Manuel Marquez, and there are whispers that at the age of 33 he is slipping.

Trainer Freddie Roach said Pacquiao—who gave up drinking, gambling and basketball in favor of Bible reading sessions since the Marquez fight—must win or he will advise him to retire.

"I would like there to be a knockout," Roach said. "He wants to prove he's not all done like some people say. He has heard it, and I think he has something to prove in this fight."

Roach has downplayed Bradley as an opponent, saying his best weapon is leading with his head and that he doesn't have the speed or power to beat Pacquiao. He sees him more as the club fighter he once was in Southern California than a legitimate threat to one of the most exciting—and popular—names in boxing.

But Bradley has fought and won as an underdog before—most notably when he went to England and beat Junior Witter in 2008 to win a piece of the 140-pound title. He's been fighting professionally for eight years now, and hasn't lost, though he only has 12 knockouts in his 28 fights.

He understands, though, that this fight is different than all the rest. While it will make him rich, it will also largely determine his future in the sport. Simply put, it's the biggest fight of his life.

"I don't look pretty, I don't look special," Bradley said. "I don't have that spark where everyone says 'wow.' I know I'm going to have to do that in this fight. You could see some greatness Saturday night."

Pacquiao says he doesn't underestimate Bradley and has had one of his best training camps ever since giving up most of his vices after rededicating himself to his religion. He was distracted by marital troubles he brought into the ring with Marquez, Pacquiao's handlers said, but has since repaired his relationship with his wife.

Still, Bradley is nothing more than another fight for Pacquiao—who will make a guaranteed $26 million, though he may be among the oddest opponents he has faced.

Bradley looks more musclebound than most fighters—a no-no in a sport where agility is prized more than bulk—and is a strict vegan when he trains. And while he seems to have embraced the idea of promoting the fight, there is always a chance he will get caught up in the moment when the time to fight actually arrives.

Bradley doesn't seem concerned about being on the big stage for the first time.

"Maybe he didn't get up for the fight, maybe he's kind of complacent. That would work in my favor," Bradley said. "Yes, I've got muscles, but I know how to use my muscles."

Big League Championship

PHOTOS By
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Hustlers' Brian Camacho punishes the ball with this vicious cut during the 2012 Saipan Little League-Big Division championship game against the Ol'Aces last May 27 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Hustlers' MacGarette Duenas slides safely into third base.

Ol'Aces Leonard Sablan throws the ball back in after shagging a shallow fly ball.

Ol'Aces' Harry Nakamura rifles the ball over to first base for a force out.

Hustlers' second baseman Jonakin Deleon Guerrero completes a force out to first base.

Ol'Aces' Keoni Lizama, left, gets a good lead off second base as Hustlers' Manny Flores keeps a watchful eye.

Hustlers' shortstop Kevin Villagomez fields a grounder up the middle and slings the ball over to first base.

Hustlers' Kevin Villagomez checks a runner at first base.

Hustlers' Tim Rabago steps into third base.

Thunder headed to NBA finals, beat Spurs

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nadal improves to 50-1 at French Open; Ferrer next

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Sakovich, Wong reunited in 2012 Oceania champs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong, left, poses with other participants last week's 9th Oceania Swimming Championships in New Caledonia. Inset, former Saipan Swim Club coach Bill Sakovich.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last week's 9th Oceania Swimming Championships in New Caledonia served as a reunion for CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong and his first coach—Bill Sakovich.

Wong competed in six individual races at the Guy Verlaguet pool in Dumbéa with the now Hawaii-based Sakovich serving as his coach and helping him gain an entry in the Oceania competition.

"It was good to have Rezne competing under me again. Rezne's last swim for me with SSC (Saipan Swim Club) was in the 10-and-under in the Guam Swim League," Sakovich said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

More than a decade ago, it was Sakovich who asked Wong if he would want to swim for Saipan Swim Club and train under the veteran coach. Wong, who called Sakovich "Mister" reluctantly accepted the offer and from there the then-hesitant swimmer turned into a CNMI record-holder, world championship veteran, Micronesian

See SAKOVICH on Page 30

Sweeps in mixed doubles A tourney

Shirley Kim reaches up for the shuttlecock during her and Jerry Tan's mixed doubles B game against Aries Cordero and Jaja Samonte in the IT&E tournament last weekend at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Week 3 of the IT&E Singles & Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2012 concluded last Sunday with teams in the tough mixed doubles A division recording victories via sweeps at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

First to post a straight games win were Saul

See SWEEPS on Page 30

CNMI jr. netters favored in NPQ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team is still the squad to beat in next week's 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam.

"The CNMI junior tennis players will dominate the NPQ again this year," a confident coach Jeff Race said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Race will bring 27 players to Guam to com-

See CNMI on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

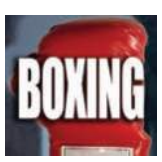
Mikayla Lopez, seen here in action in last month's Micronesian Junior Tennis Championships, will lead the CNMI's U15 team in next week's 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam.

Bradley to make most of chance against Pacquiao

AP

Manny Pacquiao, left, and Timothy Bradley pose for photographers during a press conference at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas Wednesday, June 6, 2012.

TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER



LAS VEGAS (AP)—He's a vegan in a sport where meat is king, a thinking man's fighter in a game that embraces brawlers. Timothy Bradley never wavered in his chase for boxing glory, even when his bank account was down to $11 and there was no guarantee he would ever be on the big stage.

He's finally got his big fight against Manny Pacquiao, and Bradley isn't about to let the chance of a lifetime go by. Not after he's gone through so much to get to where he's at.

"It's been a long journey but I knew someday I'd get here," Bradley said. "I just didn't know when or how."

Bradley fights Pacquiao on Saturday in a bout that will earn him millions and could get him the respect he still craves. He's a decided underdog, but some in boxing like his chances against a fighter who struggled his last time out and is suddenly regarded as vulnerable.

Count Bradley among them. He's believed in himself since he was working as a waiter to support his boxing career, and later when his bank account was depleted and he had to go to England for a $40,000 payday and his first title shot.

At Wednesday's final pre-fight press conference, he was so confident he held an oversized copy of a ticket for a Nov. 10 rematch with Pacquiao—a fight that would only happen if Bradley wins the first fight.

"It's all or nothing," Bradley said. "No rounds off. Round by round I have to win each one."

So far that hasn't been a problem in Bradley's career. He's won all 28 of his fights, though he's never fought anyone with the pedigree of Pacquiao. He got the fight not just because of his undefeated

See BRADLEY on Page 30